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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventorship Hunt
Applicant Microsoft Corporation
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-354US
Title: Methods of Factoring Operating System Functions, Methods of Converting Operating Systems, and
Related Apparatus

TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D.C. 20231

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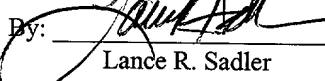
The following enumerated items accompany this transmittal letter and are being submitted for the matter identified in the above caption.

1. Specification—title page, plus 50 pages, including 41 claims and Abstract
2. Transmittal letter including Certificate of Express Mailing
3. 11 Sheets Formal Drawings (Figs. 1-15)
4. Return Post Card

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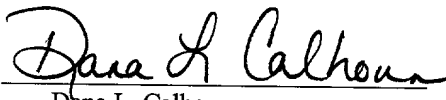
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT

Methods Of Factoring Operating System Functions, Methods Of Converting
Operating Systems, and Related Apparatus

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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. MS1-354US

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to methods of factoring operating system functions, to methods of converting operating systems from non-object-oriented formats into object-oriented formats, and to related apparatus.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Operating systems typically include large numbers of callable functions that are structured to support operation on a single host machine. When an application executes on the single host machine, it interacts with the operating system by making one or more calls to the operating system's functions.

Although this method of communicating with an operating system has been adequate, it has certain shortcomings. One such shortcoming relates to the increasing use of distributed computing, in which different computers are programmed to work in concert on a particular task. Specifically, operating system function libraries can severely limit the ability to perform distributed computing.

Fig. 1 illustrates the use of functions in prior art operating systems. Fig. 1 shows a system 20 that includes an operating system 22 and an application 24 executing in conjunction with the operating system 22. In operation, the application 24 makes calls directly into the operating system when, for example, it wants to create or use an operating system resource. As an example, if an application wants to create a file, it might call a "CreateFile" function at 26 to create the file. Responsive to this call, the operating system returns a "handle" 28. A "handle" is an arbitrary identifier, coined by the operating system to identify a resource that is controlled by the operating system. In this example, the

1 application uses handle 28 to identify the newly created file resource any time it
2 makes subsequent calls to the operating system to manipulate the file resource.
3 For example, if the application wants to read the file associated with handle 28, it
4 uses the handle when it makes a "ReadFile" call, e.g. "ReadFile (handle)".
5 Similarly, if the application wants to write to the file resource it uses handle 28
6 when it makes a "WriteFile" call, e.g. "WriteFile (handle)".

7 One problem associated with using a handle as specified above is that the
8 particular handle that is returned to an application by the operating system is only
9 valid for the process in which it is being used. That is, without special processing
10 the handle has no meaning outside of its current process, e.g. in another process on
11 a common or different machine. Hence, the handle cannot be used across process
12 or machine boundaries. This makes computing in a distributed computing system
13 impossible because, by definition, distributed computing takes place across
14 process and machine boundaries. Thus, current operating systems lack the ability
15 to name and manipulate operating system resources on remote machines.

16 Another problem with traditional operating system function libraries is that
17 individual functions cannot generally be modified without jeopardizing the
18 operation of older versions of applications that might depend on the particular
19 characteristics of the individual functions. Thus, when an operating system is
20 upgraded it typically maintains all of the older functions so that older applications
21 can still use the operating system.

22 In prior art operating systems, a function library essentially defines a
23 protocol for communicating with an operating system. When operating systems
24 are upgraded, the list of functions that it provides typically changes. Specifically,
25 functions can be added, removed, or changed. This changes the protocol that is

1 used between an application and an operating system. As soon as the protocol is
2 changed, the chances that an application will attempt to use a protocol that is not
3 understood by the operating system, and vice versa increase.

4 Prior art operating systems attempt to deal with new versions of operating
5 systems by using so-called version numbers. Version numbers are assigned to
6 each operating system. Applications can make specific calls to the operating
7 system to ascertain the version number of the operating system that is presently in
8 use. For example, when queried by an application, Windows NT 4 returns a "4"
9 and Windows NT 5 returns a "5". The application must then know what specific
10 protocol to use when communicating with the operating system. In addition, in
11 order for an operating system to know what operating system version the
12 application was designed for, a value is included in the application's binary. The
13 operating system can then attempt to accommodate the application's protocol.

14 The version number system has a couple of problems that can adversely
15 affect functionality. Specifically, a typical operating system may have thousands
16 of functions that can be called by an application. For example, Win32, a
17 Microsoft operating system application programming interface, has some 8000
18 functions. The version number that is assigned to an operating system then, by
19 definition, represents all of the possibly thousands of functions that an operating
20 system supports. This level of description is undesirable because it does not
21 provide an adequate degree of resolution. Additionally, some operating systems
22 can return the same version number. Thus, if the operating systems are different
23 (which they usually are), then returning the same version number can lead to
24 operating errors. What is needed is the ability to identify different versions of
25 operating systems at a level that is lower than the operating system level itself.

1 Ideally, this level should be at or near the function level so that a change in just
2 one or a few functions does not trigger a new version number for the entire
3 operating system.

4 The present invention arose out of concerns associated with providing
5 improved flexibility to operating systems. Specifically, the invention arose out of
6 concerns associated with providing operating systems that are configured for use
7 in distributed computing environments, and that can easily support legacy
8 applications and versioning.

9 10 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

11 Operating system functions are defined as objects that are collections of
12 data and methods. The objects represent operating system resources. The
13 resource objects can be instantiated and used across process and machine
14 boundaries. Each object has an associated handle that is stored in its private state.
15 When an application requests a resource, it is given a second handle or pseudo
16 handle that corresponds with the handle in the object's private state. The second
17 handle is valid across process and machine boundaries and all access to the object
18 takes place through the second handle. This greatly facilitates remote computing.
19 In preferred embodiments, the objects are COM objects and remote computing is
20 facilitated through the use of Distributed COM (DCOM) techniques.

21 Other embodiments of the invention provide legacy and versioning support
22 by identifying each resource, rather than the overall operating system, with a
23 unique identifier that can be specified by an application. Different versions of the
24 same resource have different identifiers. This ensures that applications that need a
25 specific version of a resource can receive that version. This also ensures that an

1 application can specifically request a particular version of a resource by using its
2 unique identifier, and be assured of receiving that resource.

3 Other embodiments of the invention provide legacy support by intercepting
4 calls for operating system functions and transforming those calls into object calls
5 that can be understood by the resource objects. This is accomplished in preferred
6 embodiments by injecting a level of indirection between an unmodified
7 application and an operating system.

8 9 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

10 Fig. 1 is a diagram that illustrates a prior art operating system.

11 Fig. 2 is a diagram of a computer that can be used to implement various
12 embodiments of the invention.

13 Fig. 3 is a diagram of one exemplary operating system architecture.

14 Fig. 4 is a high level diagram of an operating system having a plurality of
15 its resources defined as objects and distributed across process and machine
16 boundaries.

17 Fig. 5 is a diagram of an exemplary architecture in accordance with one
18 embodiment of the invention.

19 Fig. 6 is a diagram that illustrates operational aspects of one embodiment of
20 the invention.

21 Fig. 7 is a diagram of one exemplary operating system architecture.

22 Fig. 8 is a diagram of one exemplary operating system architecture.

23 Fig. 9 is a diagram of one exemplary operating system architecture.

24 Fig. 10 is a flow diagram that describes processing in accordance with one
25 embodiment of the invention.

1 Fig. 11 is a block diagram that illustrates one aspect of an interface
2 factoring scheme.

3 Figs 12-15 are diagrams of interface hierarchies in accordance with one
4 embodiment of the invention.

5 6 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

7 **Overview**

8 Various examples will be given in the context of Microsoft's Win32
9 operating system application programming interface and function library,
10 commonly referred to as the "Win32 API." Although this is a specific example, it
11 is not intended to limit the principles of the invention to only the Win32 function
12 library or, for that matter, to Microsoft's operating systems. The Win32 operating
13 system is described in detail in a text entitled *Windows 95 WIN32 Programming*
14 *API Bible*, authored by Richard Simon, and available through Waite Group Press.

15 In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, one or more of an
16 operating system's resources are defined as objects that can be identified and
17 manipulated by an application through the use of object-oriented techniques.
18 Generally, a resource is something that might have been represented in the prior
19 art as a particular handle "type." Examples of resources include files, windows,
20 menus and the like.

21 Preferably, all of the operating system's resources are defined in this way.
22 Doing so provides flexibility for distributed computing and legacy support as will
23 become apparent below. By defining the operating system resources as objects,
24 without reference to process-specific "handles," the objects can be instantiated
25 anywhere in a distributed system. This permits responsibility for different

resources to be split up across process and machine boundaries. Additionally, the objects that define the various operating system resources can be identified in such a way that applications have no trouble calling the appropriate objects when they are running. This applies to whether the applications know they are running in connection with operating system resource objects or not. If applications are unaware that they are running in connection with operating system resource objects, e.g. legacy applications, a mechanism is provided for translating calls for the functions into object calls that are understood by the operating system resources objects.

In addition, factorization schemes are provided that enable an operating system's functions to be re-organized and redefined into a plurality of object interfaces that have methods corresponding to the functions. In preferred embodiments, the interfaces are organized to leverage advantages of interface aggregation and inheritance.

Preliminarily, Fig. 2 shows a general example of a desktop computer 130 that can be used in accordance with the invention. Various numbers of computers such as that shown can be used in the context of a distributed computing environment. In this document, computers are also referred to as "machines".

Computer 130 includes one or more processors or processing units 132, a system memory 134, and a bus 136 that couples various system components including the system memory 134 to processors 132. The bus 136 represents one or more of any of several types of bus structures, including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, an accelerated graphics port, and a processor or local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. The system memory 134 includes read only memory (ROM) 138 and random access memory (RAM) 140.

1 A basic input/output system (BIOS) 142, containing the basic routines that help to
2 transfer information between elements within computer 130, such as during start-
3 up, is stored in ROM 138.

4 Computer 130 further includes a hard disk drive 144 for reading from and
5 writing to a hard disk (not shown), a magnetic disk drive 146 for reading from and
6 writing to a removable magnetic disk 148, and an optical disk drive 150 for
7 reading from or writing to a removable optical disk 152 such as a CD ROM or
8 other optical media. The hard disk drive 144, magnetic disk drive 146, and optical
9 disk drive 150 are connected to the bus 136 by an SCSI interface 154 or some
10 other appropriate interface. The drives and their associated computer-readable
11 media provide nonvolatile storage of computer-readable instructions, data
12 structures, program modules and other data for computer 130. Although the
13 exemplary environment described herein employs a hard disk, a removable
14 magnetic disk 148 and a removable optical disk 152, it should be appreciated by
15 those skilled in the art that other types of computer-readable media which can
16 store data that is accessible by a computer, such as magnetic cassettes, flash
17 memory cards, digital video disks, random access memories (RAMs), read only
18 memories (ROMs), and the like, may also be used in the exemplary operating
19 environment.

20 A number of program modules may be stored on the hard disk 144,
21 magnetic disk 148, optical disk 152, ROM 138, or RAM 140, including an
22 operating system 158, one or more application programs 160, other program
23 modules 162, and program data 164. A user may enter commands and
24 information into computer 130 through input devices such as a keyboard 166 and a
25 pointing device 168. Other input devices (not shown) may include a microphone,

joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are connected to the processing unit 132 through an interface 170 that is coupled to the bus 136. A monitor 172 or other type of display device is also connected to the bus 136 via an interface, such as a video adapter 174. In addition to the monitor, personal computers typically include other peripheral output devices (not shown) such as speakers and printers.

Computer 130 commonly operates in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as a remote computer 176. The remote computer 176 may be another personal computer, a server, a router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and typically includes many or all of the elements described above relative to computer 130, although only a memory storage device 178 has been illustrated in Fig. 2. The logical connections depicted in Fig. 2 include a local area network (LAN) 180 and a wide area network (WAN) 182. Such networking environments are commonplace in offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets, and the Internet.

When used in a LAN networking environment, computer 130 is connected to the local network 180 through a network interface or adapter 184. When used in a WAN networking environment, computer 130 typically includes a modem 186 or other means for establishing communications over the wide area network 182, such as the Internet. The modem 186, which may be internal or external, is connected to the bus 136 via a serial port interface 156. In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the personal computer 130, or portions thereof, may be stored in the remote memory storage device. It will be

1 appreciated that the network connections shown are exemplary and other means of
2 establishing a communications link between the computers may be used.

3 Generally, the data processors of computer 130 are programmed by means
4 of instructions stored at different times in the various computer-readable storage
5 media of the computer. Programs and operating systems are typically distributed,
6 for example, on floppy disks or CD-ROMs. From there, they are installed or
7 loaded into the secondary memory of a computer. At execution, they are loaded at
8 least partially into the computer's primary electronic memory. The invention
9 described herein includes these and other various types of computer-readable
10 storage media when such media contain instructions or programs for implementing
11 the steps described below in conjunction with a microprocessor or other data
12 processor. The invention also includes the computer itself when programmed
13 according to the methods and techniques described below.

14 For purposes of illustration, programs and other executable program
15 components such as the operating system are illustrated herein as discrete blocks,
16 although it is recognized that such programs and components reside at various
17 times in different storage components of the computer, and are executed by the
18 data processor(s) of the computer.

20 **General Operating System Object Architecture**

21 Fig. 3 shows an exemplary group of objects generally at 30 that represent a
22 plurality of operating system resources 32, 34, 36, 38 within operating system 22.
23 Resource 32 is a file resource, resource 34 is a window resource, resource 36 is a
24 font resource, and resource 38 is a menu resource. The objects contain methods
25 and data that can be used to manipulate the object. For example, file object 32

1 might include the methods "CreateFile", "WriteFile", and "ReadFile". Similarly,
2 window object 34 might include the methods "CreateWindow", "CloseWindow"
3 and "FlashWindow". Any number of objects can be provided and are really only
4 limited by the number of functions that exist in an operating system, and/or the
5 way in which the functions are factored as will become apparent below. In various
6 embodiments, it has been found advantageous to split the functions into a plurality
7 of objects based upon a logical relationship between the functions. One advantage
8 of doing this is that it facilitates computing in a distributed system and limits the
9 complexity of doing so. Specifically, by dividing the functions logically between
10 various objects, only objects having the desired functionality are instantiated on a
11 remote machine. For example, if all of the functions that are associated with
12 displaying a window on a display device are contained within a single object, then
13 only that object need be instantiated on a remote display machine, e.g. a handheld
14 device. Although it is possible for all of the functions of an operating system to be
15 represented by a single object, this would add to overhead during remote
16 processing. The illustrated architecture is particularly useful for applications that
17 are "aware" they are operating in connection with resource objects. These
18 applications can make specific object calls to the resource objects without the need
19 to intercept and translate their calls, as will be discussed below.

20 Although any suitable object model can be used to define the operating
21 system resources, it has been found particularly advantageous to define them as
22 COM objects. COM objects are well known Microsoft computing mechanisms
23 and are described in a book entitled *Inside OLE*, Second Edition 1995, which is
24 authored by Kraig Brockschmidt. In COM, each object has one or more interfaces
25 that are represented by the plug notation used in Fig. 3. An interface is a group of

1 semantically related functions or methods. All access to an object occurs through
2 member functions of an interface. Representing the operating system resources as
3 objects provides an opportunity to redefine the architecture of current operating
4 systems, and to provide new architectures that improve upon the old ones.

5 One advantage of representing resources as COM objects comes in the
6 remote computing environment. Specifically, when COM objects are instantiated
7 throughout a distributed computing system, Distributed COM (DCOM) techniques
8 can be used for remote communication. DCOM is a known communication
9 protocol developed by Microsoft.

10 Fig. 4 shows an exemplary distribution of an operating system's resources
11 across one process boundary and one machine boundary in a distributed
12 computing system. In the described example, resource object 48 is instantiated in-
13 process (i.e. inside the application's process), resource object 50 is instantiated in
14 another process on the same machine (i.e. local), and resource object 52 is
15 instantiated on another machine (i.e. remote). The instantiated resource objects
16 are used by the application 24 and constitute a translation layer between the
17 application and the operating system. Specifically, the application makes object
18 calls on the resource objects. The resource objects, in turn, pass the calls down
19 into the operating system in a manner that is understood by the operating system.
20 One way of doing this is through the use of handle/pseudo handle pairs discussed
21 in more detail below.

22 In order to use the resource objects, the application must first be able to
23 communicate with them. In one embodiment where the operating system
24 resources comprise COM objects, communication takes place through the use of
25 known DCOM techniques. Specifically, in the local case where resource 50 is

1 instantiated across a process boundary, DCOM provides for an instantiated
2 proxy/stub pair 54 to marshal data across the process boundary. The remote case
3 also uses a proxy/stub pair 54 to marshal data across the process and machine
4 boundaries. In addition, an optional proxy manager 56 can be instantiated or
5 otherwise provided to oversee communication performed by the proxy/stub pair,
6 and to take measures to reduce unnecessary communication. Specifically, one
7 common proxy manager task is to cache remote data to avoid unnecessary
8 communication. For example, in the Win32 operating system, information can be
9 cached to improve the re-drawing of remote windows. When a BeginPaint() call
10 is made, it signals the beginning of a re-draw operation by creating a new drawing
11 context resource. In order to be available remotely, this resource has to be
12 wrapped by an object. Rather than creating a new object instance on each re-draw
13 operation, an object instance can be cached in the proxy manager and re-used for
14 the re-draw wrapper

16 **Translation Layer**

17 Fig 5 shows a translation layer 58 comprising resource objects 32, 34, 36,
18 and 38. Translation layer 58 is interposed between an application 24 that is
19 configured to make resource object calls, and an operating system 22 that is not
20 configured to receive the resource object calls. In this example, application 24 is
21 not a legacy application because those applications directly call functions in the
22 operating system. Translation layer 58 works in concert with application 24 so
23 that the application's resource object calls can be used by the object to call
24 functions of the operating system.

Fig. 6 shows one way that translation layer 58 translates resource object calls from the application 24 into calls to operating system functions. Here, the operating system resources are defined as COM objects that have one or more interfaces that are called by the application. Because the COM objects can be instantiated either in process, locally, or remotely, the standard handle that was discussed in the "Background" section cannot be used. Recall that the reason for this is that the handle is only valid in its own process, and not in other processes on the same or different machines. To address and overcome the limitations that are inherent with the use of this first handle, aspects of the invention create a second or "pseudo" handle and associate it with the first handle. The second handle is preferably valid universally, outside the process of the first handle. This means that the second handle is valid across multiple machine and process boundaries. The application uses the second handle instead of the first handle whenever it creates or manipulates an operating system resource.

In operation, an application initially calls a resource object in the translation layer 58 when it wants to create a resource to use. An application may, for example, call "CreateFile" on a file object to create a file. The application is then passed a pseudo-handle 60 instead of the first handle 28 for the file object. The first handle 28 is stored in the object instance's private state, i.e. it remains with its associated object. This means that the file object has its own real handle 28 that it maintains, and the application has a pseudo handle 60 that corresponds to the real handle. Application 24 makes object calls to the object of interest using the pseudo-handle 60. The object takes the pseudo-handle, retrieves the corresponding handle 28 and uses it to call functions in the operating system. The application uses the pseudo-handle 60 for all access to the operating system

1 resource. In a preferred embodiment, pseudo-handle 60 is an interface pointer that
2 points to an interface of the object of interest.

3 With an appropriate pseudo-handle, an application is free to access any of
4 the resources that are associated with an object that corresponds to that handle.
5 This means that the application uses the pseudo-handle 60 to make subsequent
6 calls to, in this example, the file object. For example, calls to "ReadFile" and
7 "WriteFile" now take place using the pseudo handle 60. When the application
8 makes a call using the pseudo handle 60, the object determines the real handle that
9 corresponds to the pseudo-handle. Any suitable method can be used such as a
10 mapping process. If the object is in process, then the call gets passed down to the
11 operating system 22 using first handle 28 as shown. If the object is local or on
12 another machine, then communication takes place with the object at its current
13 location across process and machine boundaries. Where the operating system
14 resources are defined as COM objects, DCOM techniques can be used to call
15 across process and machine boundaries.

17 **Legacy Application Support**

18 Figs. 7 and 8 show two different architectures that can be used in
19 connection with legacy applications. Fig. 7 includes an operating system that is
20 the same as the one described in connection with Fig. 5. Fig. 8 includes an
21 operating system that is the same as the one described in connection with Fig. 3.

22 Recall that legacy applications are those that call operating system
23 functions instead of objects. These types of applications do not have any way of
24 knowing that they are running in connection with a system whose resources are
25 defined as objects. Hence, when an application calls a function, it "believes" that

1 the function is supported by and accessible through the operating system. The
2 syntax of the function calls, however, is not understood by the objects.
3 Embodiments of the invention translate the syntax of the function calls into syntax
4 that is understood by the objects. In accordance with one embodiment, application
5 calls are intercepted and transformed before reaching the operating system. The
6 transformed calls are then used to call the appropriate object using the syntax that
7 it can understand. Then the object passes the calls into the operating system as
8 was described above in connection with Fig. 6.

9 In one implementation, a detour 60 is provided that implements a detour
10 function. Detour 60 is interposed between the application and the operating
11 system. When an application calls a function, detour 60 intercepts the call and
12 transforms it into an object call. In preferred embodiments, detour 60 enables
13 communication across at least one and preferably more process and machine
14 boundaries for remote computing. Where the objects are COM objects,
15 communication takes place through DCOM techniques discussed above.

16 To understand how one embodiment of detour 60 works, the following
17 example is given. Syntactically, detour 60 changes the syntax of an application's
18 call to an operating system function into one that is understood by an object. For
19 example, a prior art call might use the following syntax to call "ReadFile":
20 ReadFile(handle, buffer, size), where "handle" specifies a file resource that is to
21 be read. There are many different resources that can be read using the ReadFile
22 function, e.g. a file, a pipe, and a socket.

23 When a prior art operating system is called in this manner, the operating
24 system typically looks for the code that is associated with reading the particular
25 type of resource that is specified by the handle, and then reads the resource using

1 the code. One way prior art operating systems can do this is to have one lengthy
2 “IF” statement that specifies the code to be used for each different type of
3 resource. Thus, if a new resource is to be added, the “IF” statement must be
4 modified to provide for that type of resource.

5 Detour 60 greatly streamlines this process by translating the “ReadFile” call
6 syntax into one that can be used by the specified resource. So in this example, the
7 original “handle” actually specifies an object. The new syntax for the object call
8 is represented as “handle→ReadFile (buffer, size)”. Here, “handle” is the object
9 and “ReadFile” is an object function or method. In COM embodiments, the
10 “ReadFile” method of the handle object is accessed through the object’s *vtable* in
11 a known manner. This configuration allows an object to contain only the code that
12 is specifically necessary to operate upon it. It need not contain any code that is
13 associated with other types of objects. This is advantageous because new objects
14 can be created simply by providing the code that is uniquely associated with it,
15 rather than by modifying a lengthy “IF” statement. Each object is self-contained
16 and does not impact or affect any of the other objects. Nor does its creation affect
17 the run time of any other objects. Only those applications that need a specific
18 object will have it created for their use. Another advantage is the ease with which
19 objects can be accessed. Specifically, applications can access the various objects
20 through the use of pseudo-handles which are discussed above.

21 Detour 60 constitutes but one way of making a syntactic transformation
22 from one format that cannot be used with resource objects to a format that can be
23 used with resource objects. This supports legacy applications that do not “know”
24 that they are running on top of a system whose resources are provided as objects.
25

1 So, to the application it appears as if its calls are working just the same as they
2 ever did.

4 **Detour Implementation**

5 When an application is built, it links against a set of dynamic linked
6 libraries or (DLLs). The DLLs contain code that corresponds to the particular
7 calls that an application makes. For example, the call "CreateFile" is contained in
8 a DLL called "kernel32.dll". At run time, the operating system loads
9 "kernel32.dll" into the address space for the application. Detour 60 contains a
10 detour call for each call that an application makes. So, in this example, detour 60
11 contains a call "Detour_CreateFile". The goal of detour 60 is to call the
12 "Detour_CreateFile" called every time the application calls "CreateFile". This
13 provides a level of indirection when the application makes a call to the operating
14 system. The indirection enables certain decisions to be made by detour 60 that
15 relate to whether a call is made locally or remotely.

16 As an example, consider the following. If an application desires to use a
17 "WriteFile" call to write certain data to a particular file remotely, but also to write
18 certain other data to a file locally, then a redirected "Detour_WriteFile" call can
19 determine that there is a local operation that must take place, as well as a remote
20 operation that must take place. The "Detour_WriteFile" call can then make the
21 appropriate calls to ensure that the local operation does in fact take place, and the
22 appropriate calls to ensure that the remote operations do in fact take place.

23 One way of injecting this level of indirection into the call is to manipulate
24 the call's assembly code. Specifically, portions of the assembly code can be
25 removed and replaced with code that implements the detour. So, using the

“CreateFile” call as an example, the first few lines of code comprising the “CreateFile” call are removed and replaced with a “jump” instruction that calls “Detour_CreateFile”. For those operating systems that do not natively implement resource objects, a trampoline 62 (Fig. 9) is provided and receives the lines of code that are removed, along with another jump instruction that jumps back to the original “CreateFile” call. Now, when application 24 calls “CreateFile”, detour 60 automatically calls “Detour_CreateFile”. If there is local processing that must take place, the “Detour_CreateFile” can call trampoline 62 to invoke the original local “CreateFile” sub-routine. Otherwise, if there is remote processing that must take place, the detour 60 can take the appropriate steps to ensure that remote processing takes place. In this manner, the detour 60 wedges between the application and the operating system with a level of indirection. The indirection provides an opportunity to process either locally or remotely.

One of the primary advantages of detour 60 in the COM embodiments is the remoting capabilities provided by DCOM. That is, because the operating system’s resources are now modeled as COM objects, DCOM can be used essentially for free to support communication with local or remote processes or machines.

Linking Against Detours

One way that detours can be implemented is to modify the dynamic link library (DLL) that an application links against. Specifically, rather than link against DLLs and their associated functions, an application links directly against detour functions, e.g. “detour32.dll” instead of “kernel32.dll”. Here, “detour32.dll” contains the same function names as “kernel32.dll”. However,

1 rather than providing the kernel's functionality, "detour32.dll" contains object
2 calls. Thus, an application makes a function call to a function name in the
3 "detour32.dll" which, in turn, makes an object call.

4 With the "detour.dll", all of the function calls are translated into COM
5 calls. The trampoline 62 is loaded and is hardwired so that it knows where to
6 jump to the appropriate places in the kernal32.dll.

7 8 **Version Support**

9 Another aspect of the invention provides support for different versions of a
10 resource within an operating system. Recall that in the prior art, operating system
11 versions are simply represented by a version number. The version number
12 represents the entire collection of operating system functions. Thus, a
13 modification to a handful of operating system functions might spawn a new
14 operating system version and version number. Yet, many if not most of the
15 original functions remain unchanged. Because of this, version numbers provide an
16 undesirable degree of description. In addition, recall that previous operating
17 systems maintain vast function libraries that include all of the functions that an
18 application might need. Function calls cannot be deleted because legacy
19 applications might need them. This results in a large, bulky architecture of
20 collective functions that is not efficient.

21 While the functionality of these functions must be maintained to support
22 legacy applications, various embodiments of the invention do so in a manner that
23 is much less cumbersome and much more efficient. Specifically, embodiments of
24 the invention create the necessary resources for legacy applications only when
25 they are needed by an application. The resources are defined as objects that are

1 collections of data and methods. Each object only contains the methods that
2 pertain to it. No other resources are created or maintained if they are not
3 specifically needed by an application. This is made possible, in the preferred
4 embodiment, through the use of COM objects that encapsulate the functionality of
5 the requested resources.

6 Accurate version support is provided by the way in which object interfaces
7 are identified. Specifically, each object interface has its own unique identifier.
8 Each different version of a resource is represented by a different interface
9 identifier. An application can specifically request a unique identifier when it
10 wants a particular version of a resource.

11 One way of implementing this in COM is as follows. As background,
12 every interface in COM is defined by an interface identifier, or IID that is formed
13 by a globally unique identifier or "GUID". GUIDs are numbers that are generated
14 by the operating system and are bound by the programmer or a development tool
15 to the interfaces that they represent. By programming convention, no two
16 incompatible interfaces can ever have the same IID. One of the rules in COM that
17 accompanies the use of these GUIDs is that if an interface changes in any way
18 whatsoever, so too must its associated IID change. Thus, IIDs and interfaces are
19 inextricably bound together and provide a way to uniquely identify the interface
20 with which it is associated over all other interfaces in its operating universe.

21 In the present invention, every operating system function is implemented as
22 a method of some interface that has its own assigned unique identifier. In the
23 preferred embodiment, the unique identifier comprises a GUID or IID. Other
24 unique identifiers can, of course, be used. An application that uses a set of
25 functions now specifies unique identifiers that are associated with the functions.

1 This assures the application that it will receive the exact versions of the functions
2 or methods that it needs to execute. In addition, in those circumstances where the
3 resources are instantiated across a distributed system, the unique identifiers are
4 specified across multiple process and machine boundaries. In a preferred
5 embodiment, the applications store the appropriate unique identifiers, GUIDs, or
6 IIDs in their data segment.

7 One of the benefits of using unique identifiers or IIDs is that each
8 represents the syntax and the semantics of an interface. If the syntax or the
9 semantics of an interface changes, the interface must be assigned a new identifier
10 or IID. By representing the operating system resources as COM objects that
11 support these interfaces, each with their own specific identifier or IID, applications
12 can be assured of the desired call syntax and semantics when specific interfaces
13 are requested. Specifically and with reference to the COM embodiments, an
14 application that knows it is operating on an operating system that has its resources
15 defined as COM objects can call *QueryInterface* on a particular object. By
16 specifying the IID in the *QueryInterface* call, the application can determine
17 whether that object implements a specific version of a specific interface.

18 In addition, embodiments of the invention can provide an operating system
19 with the ability to determine, based on the specified unique identifier, whether it
20 has the resource that is requested. If it does not, the operating system can ascertain
21 the location of the particular resource and retrieve it so that the application can
22 have the requested resource. The location from which the resource is retrieved can
23 be across process and machine boundaries. As an example, consider the
24 following. If an application asks for a specific version of a "ReadFile" interface,
25 and the operating system does not support that version, the operating system may

1 know where to go in order to download the code to implement the requested
2 functionality. Software code for the specific requested interface may, for example,
3 be located on a web site to which the operating system has access. The operating
4 system can then simply access the web site, download the code, and provide the
5 resource to the application.

6 7 **Linking Against Unique Identifiers**

8 When an application is linked, it typically links against a set of DLL names
9 and entry points in a known manner. The DLLs contain code that corresponds to
10 the particular calls that an application will need to make. So for example, if an
11 application knows that it is going to need the call "CreateFile", it will link against
12 the DLL name that includes the code for that call, e.g. "kernel32.dll". At run time,
13 a loader for the operating system loads "kernel32.dll" into the address space for
14 the application. Linking against DLLs in this manner does not support versioning
15 because there is no way to specify a particular version of a resource.

16 To address this and other problems, one embodiment of the invention
17 establishes a library that contains unique identifiers for one or more interfaces, e.g.
18 GUIDs, and the method offsets that are associated with the unique identifiers. The
19 method offsets correspond to the vtable entry for the unique identifier. An
20 application is then linked against the unique identifiers. For example, when an
21 application is compiled, it is linked against one or more ".lib" or library files. A
22 linker is responsible for taking the ".lib" files that have been specified by the
23 application and looking for the functions or methods that are needed by the
24 application. When the linker finds the appropriate specific functions, it copies
25 information out of the ".lib" file and into the binary image of the application. This

information includes the name of the DLL containing the functions, and the name of the function. Linking by GUID and method offset can be accomplished by simply modifying the library or ".lib" files by replacing the DLL names and function names with the GUIDs and method offsets. This change does not affect the application, operating system, or compiler. For example, DLL names typically have the form "xxxxxx.dll". The GUID identifier, on the other hand, is represented as a hexadecimal string that is specified by a set of brackets "{}". The linker and the loader can then be modified by simply specifying that they should look for the brackets, instead of looking for the "xxxxxx.dll" form. This results in loading only those specific interfaces (containing the appropriate methods) that are needed for an application instead of any DLLs. This supports versioning because an application can specifically name, by GUID, the specific interfaces that it needs to operate. Accordingly, only those interfaces that constitute the specific version that an application requests are loaded.

Factorization

Factorization involves looking at a set of functions and reorganizing the functions into defined interfaces based upon some definable logical relationship between the functions. In the described embodiment of the invention, the existing functions of an operating system are factored and assigned to different interfaces, so that the functions are now implemented as interface methods. The interfaces are associated with objects that represent underlying operating resources such as files, windows, etc. In this context, an "object" is a data structure that includes both data and associated methods. The objects are preferably COM objects that can be instantiated anywhere throughout a remote computing system. Factoring

1 the function calls associated with an operating system's resources provides
2 independent operating system resources and promotes clarity. It also promotes
3 effective, efficient versioning, and clean remoting of the resources.

4 Fig. 10 shows a flow diagram at 200 that describes factorization steps in
5 accordance with one embodiment of the invention. Step 202 factors function calls
6 into first interface groups based upon a first criteria. An exemplary first criteria
7 takes into account the particular items or underlying resources associated with the
8 operation of a function, or the particular manner in which a function behaves. For
9 example, some functions might be associated only with a window resource in that
10 they create a window or allow a window to be manipulated in some way. These
11 types of functions are placed into a first group that is associated with windows.
12 An exemplary first interface group might be designated *IWin32Window*.

13 Step 204 factors the first groups into individual sub-groups based upon a
14 second criteria. An exemplary second criteria is based upon the nature of the
15 operation of a function on the particular item or resource with which it is
16 associated. For example, by nature, some functions create resources such as
17 windows, while other functions do not create resources. Rather, these other
18 functions have an effect on, or operate in some manner on a resource after it has
19 been created. Accordingly, step 204 considers this operational nature and assigns
20 the functions to different sub-groups based upon operational differences. In one
21 embodiment, the groups are factored into sub-groups by considering the call
22 parameters and return values that the functions use. This permits factorization to
23 take place based upon each function's use of a handle. As an example, consider
24 the following five functions:
25

```
1      HANDLE CreateWindow(...);
2      int DialogBoxParam(...,HANDLE, ...);
3      int FlashWindow(HANDLE, ...);
4      HANDLE GetProp (HANDLE, ...)
5      int GetWindowText(HANDLE, ...);
```

6 A loaded operating system resource is exported to the application as an
7 opaque value called a kernel handle. Functions that create kernel handles (i.e.,
8 resources) are moved to a “factory” interface, and functions that then query or
9 manipulate these kernel handles are moved to a “handle” interface. Accordingly,
10 step 206 assigns the sub-groups to different object interfaces. For example, those
11 functions that create a window are assigned into an interface sub-group called
12 *IWin32WindowFactory*, while those functions that do not create a window, but
13 rather operate on it in some way are assigned into an interface sub-group called
14 *IWin32WindowHandle*. Each interface represents a particular object’s
15 implementation of its collective functions. Objects can now be created or
16 instantiated that include interfaces that contain one or more methods that
17 correspond to the functions. Objects can be instantiated anywhere in a remote
18 computing environment.

19 In a further extension of the factorization, consideration is given to
20 functions that act upon a number of different resources. For example, Win32 has
21 several calls that synchronize on a specified handle. The specified handle can
22 represent a standard synchronization resource, such as a mutual exclusion lock, or
23 less common synchronization resources such as processes or files. By simply
24 factoring the functions as described above, this relationship would be missed. For
25 example, the synchronization calls would be placed in a *IWin32SyncHandle*
interface, while the process and file calls would be placed in

1 *IWin32ProcessHandle* and *IWin32FileHandle* interfaces, respectively. In order to
2 capture the relationship between these functions though, the process and file
3 interfaces should also include the synchronization calls. Because the process and
4 file handles can be thought of as logically extending the functionality of the
5 synchronization handle, the concept of interface inheritance can be used to ensure
6 that this takes place. Accordingly, both the *IWin32ProcessHandle* and
7 *IWin32FileHandle* will thus inherit from the *IWin32SyncHandle* interface. This
8 means that the *IWin32ProcessHandle* and *IWin32FileHandle* interfaces contain all
9 the methods of the *IWin32SyncHandle* interface, in addition to their own methods.

10 To assist in further understanding of the factorization scheme, the following
11 example is given by considering again the five functions listed above. Fig. 11
12 constitutes a small but exemplary subset of the 130+ window functions in the
13 Win32 operating system. The “CreateWindow()” function creates a window. The
14 remaining functions execute a dialog box, flash the window’s title bar, query
15 various window properties, and return the current text in the window title bar.
16 These functions all operate on windows in some way and are first factored into a
17 windows group. Next, the functions are further factored depending on their use of
18 kernel handles (denoted by “HANDLE” in the above functions). Since
19 “CreateWindow()” creates a handle or window, it is factored into a factory sub-
20 group called *IWin32WindowFactory*. Since the other functions do not create a
21 window, but only operate on or relative to one, they are placed in a handle sub-
22 group called *IWin32WindowHandle*. In a third step, the *IWin32WindowHandle*
23 sub-group is further factored into *IWin32WindowState* and *IWin32Property*
24 interfaces. The State and Property interfaces are said to compose the
25 *IWin32WindowHandle* interface. This composition is modeled through interface

1 aggregation. The dialog calls are factored into their own interface since they are
2 logical extensions of the windows. This is modeled through interface inheritance.
3 Interface aggregation and inheritance are discussed in more detail in the
4 Brockschmidt text above.

5 To further assist in understanding the factorization scheme, Figs. 12-15 are
6 provided, as well as the factorization list below. Figs. 12-15 lists the interface
7 hierarchy and factoring of a subset of more than one thousand functions of the
8 Win32 operating system. The subset contains the necessary Win32 functions to
9 support three operating system-intensive applications: Microsoft PhotoDraw, the
10 Microsoft Developers' Network Corporate Benefits sample, and Microsoft
11 Research's Octarine. The first is a commercial image manipulation package, the
12 second is a widely distributed sample three-tiered, client-server application, and
13 the third is a prototype COM-based integrated productivity application. All
14 obsolete Windows 3.1 (16-bit) calls have been placed in *IWin16* interfaces. In
15 implementation, the top-level call prototypes will mirror their Win32 counterparts,
16 with the appropriate parameters replaced by interface pointers. Note that these
17 calls can wrap lower-level methods that implement different parameters. For
18 example, the lower level methods could return descriptive HRESULTs directly
19 and the Win32 return types as OUT parameters. Additionally, ANSI API calls can
20 be implemented as wrappers of their UNICODE counterparts. The wrappers will
21 simply perform argument translation and then invoke the counterpart.

22 The factorization list below lists the interface hierarchy. Inheritance
23 relationships are clearly shown by the connecting lines, while aggregation is
24 pictured by placing one interface block within another. This section also lists the
25

call factorization. In the factorization list, “X:Y” denotes that X inherits from Y,
and “Y←X” denotes that X is aggregated into Y.

Factorization List

Generic Handles

IWin32Handle

CloseHandle

Atoms

IWin32Atom

GlobalDeleteAtom

GlobalGetAtomNameA

IWin32AtomFactory

GlobalAddAtomA

Clipboard

IWin32Clipboard

ChangeClipboardChain

CloseClipboard

GetClipboardData

GetClipboardFormatNameA

GetClipboardFormatNameW

GetClipboardOwner

GetClipboardViewer

GetOpenClipboardWindow

IsClipboardFormatAvailable

SetClipboardData

IWin32ClipboardFactory

RegisterClipboardFormatA

RegisterClipboardFormatW

Console

IWin32Console : IWin32SyncHandle

GetConsoleMode

GetNumberOfConsoleInputEvents

PeekConsoleInputA

ReadConsoleA

ReadConsoleInputA

SetConsoleMode

SetStdHandle

WriteConsoleA

IWin32ConsoleFactory

AllocConsole

GetStdHandle

Drawing

IWin16DeviceContextFont :

IWin16DeviceContext

EnumFontFamiliesA

EnumFontsW

GetCharWidthA

GetTextExtentPointA

GetTextExtentPointW

IWin16MetaFile : IWin16DeviceContext

CloseMetaFile

CopyMetaFileA

DeleteMetaFile

EnumMetaFile

GetMetaFileA

GetMetaFileBitsEx

GetWinMetaFileBits

PlayMetaFile

PlayMetaFileRecord

IWin16MetaFileFactory

GetEnhMetaFileA

SetEnhMetaFileBits

SetMetaFileBitsEx

IWin32Bitmap:IWin32GDIObject

CreatePatternBrush

GetBitmapDimensionEx

GetDIBits

SetBitmapDimensionEx

SetDIBits

SetDIBitsToDevice

IWin32BitmapFactory

CreateBitmap

CreateBitmapIndirect

CreateCompatibleBitmap

CreateDIBSection

CreateDIBitmap

CreateDiscardableBitmap

IWin32BrushFactory

CreateBrushIndirect

CreateDIBPatternBrushPt

CreateHatchBrush

CreateSolidBrush

IWin32Colorspace

DeleteColorSpace

IWin32ColorspaceFactory

CreateColorSpaceA

IWin32Cursor

DestroyCursor

SetCursor

IWin32CursorFactory

	GetCursor	PolyBezier
1	IWin32CursorUtility	PolyBezierTo
	ClipCursor	PolyDraw
2	GetCursorPos	PolyPolygon
	SetCursorPos	PolyPolyline
3	ShowCursor	Polygon
	IWin32DeviceContext←	Polyline
4	IWin32DeviceContextFont,	PolylineTo
	IWin32DeviceContextCoords,	Rectangle
5	IWin32Path,	ReleaseDC
	IWin32DeviceContextProperties,	ResetDCA
	IWin32ScreenClip	RestoreDC
6	AngleArc	RoundRect
	Arc	SaveDC
7	ArcTo	ScrollDC
	BitBlt	SetPixel
8	Chord	SetPixelV
	CreateCompatibleDC	StretchBlt
9	DeleteDC	StretchDIBits
	DrawEdge	TabbedTextOutA
10	DrawEscape	TextOutA
	DrawFocusRect	TextOutW
	DrawFrameControl	WindowFromDC
11	DrawIcon	IWin32DeviceContextCoordinates
	DrawIconEx	DPtoLP
12	DrawStateA	LPtoDP
	DrawTextA	IWin32DeviceContextFactory
13	DrawTextW	CreateDCA
	Ellipse	CreateDCW
14	EnumObjects	CreateICA
	ExtFloodFill	CreateICW
15	ExtTextOutA	CreateMetaFileA
	ExtTextOutW	CreateMetaFileW
16	FillRect	IWin32DeviceContextFont
	FillRgn	EnumFontFamiliesExA
17	FloodFill	GetAspectRatioFilterEx
	FrameRect	GetCharABCWidthsA
18	FrameRgn	GetCharABCWidthsFloatA
	GdiFlush	GetCharABCWidthsW
19	GetCurrentObject	GetCharWidth32A
	GetCurrentPositionEx	GetCharWidth32W
20	GetPixel	GetCharWidthFloatA
	GrayStringA	GetFontData
21	GrayStringW	GetGlyphOutlineA
	InvertRect	GetGlyphOutlineW
22	InvertRgn	GetKerningPairsA
	LineDDA	GetOutlineTextMetricsA
23	LineTo	GetTabbedTextExtentA
	MaskBlt	GetTextAlign
24	MoveToEx	GetTextCharacterExtra
	PaintRgn	GetTextCharsetInfo
25	PatBlt	GetTextColor
	Pie	GetTextExtentExPointA
	PlgBlt	

1 GetTextExtentExPointW
 2 GetTextExtentPoint32A
 3 GetTextExtentPoint32W
 4 GetTextFaceA
 5 GetTextMetricsA
 6 GetTextMetricsW
 7 SetMapperFlags
 8 SetTextAlign
 9 SetTextCharacterExtra
 10 SetTextColor
 11 SetTextJustification
 12 **IWin32DeviceContextProperties**
 13 GetArcDirection
 14 GetBkColor
 15 GetBkMode
 16 GetBoundsRect
 17 GetBrushOrgEx
 18 GetColorAdjustment
 19 GetColorSpace
 20 GetDeviceCaps
 21 GetMapMode
 22 GetNearestColor
 23 GetPolyFillMode
 24 GetROP2
 25 GetStretchBltMode
 GetViewportExtEx
 GetViewportOrgEx
 GetWindowExtEx
 GetWindowOrgEx
 OffsetViewportOrgEx
 OffsetWindowOrgEx
 PtVisible
 RectVisible
 ScaleViewportExtEx
 ScaleWindowExtEx
 SetArcDirection
 SetBkColor
 SetBkMode
 SetBoundsRect
 SetBrushOrgEx
 SetColorAdjustment
 SetColorSpace
 SetDIBColorTable
 SetICMMode
 SetMapMode
 SetMiterLimit
 SetPolyFillMode
 SetROP2
 SetStretchBltMode
 SetViewportExtEx
 SetViewportOrgEx
 SetWindowExtEx
 SetWindowOrgEx

UpdateColors
IWin32EnhMetaFile:
IWin32DeviceContext
 CloseEnhMetaFile
 CopyEnhMetaFileA
 CreateEnhMetaFileA
 CreateEnhMetaFileW
 DeleteEnhMetaFile
 EnumEnhMetaFile
 GdiComment
 GetEnhMetaFileBits
 GetEnhMetaFileDescriptionA
 GetEnhMetaFileDescriptionW
 GetEnhMetaFileHeader
 GetEnhMetaFilePaletteEntries
 PlayEnhMetaFile
 PlayEnhMetaFileRecord
IWin32EnhMetaFileFactory
 SetWinMetaFileBits
IWin32FontFactory
 CreateFontA
 CreateFontIndirectA
 CreateFontIndirectW
 CreateFontW
IWin32GDIObject
 DeleteObject
 GetObjectA
 GetObjectType
 GetObjectW
 SelectObject
 UnrealizeObject
IWin32GDIObjectFactory
 GetStockObject
IWin32Icon
 CopyIcon
 DestroyIcon
 GetIconInfo
IWin32IconFactory
 CreateIcon
 CreateIconFromResource
 CreateIconFromResourceEx
 CreateIconIndirect
 CreateMenu
IWin32Palette : IWin32GDIObject
 AnimatePalette
 GetNearestPaletteIndex
 GetPaletteEntries
 ResizePalette
 SelectPalette
 SetPaletteEntries
IWin32PaletteFactory
 CreateHalftonePalette
 CreatePalette
IWin32PaletteSystem

GetSystemPaletteEntries
GetSystemPaletteUse
RealizePalette

IWin32Path

AbortPath
BeginPath
CloseFigure
EndPath
FillPath
FlattenPath
GetMiterLimit
GetPath
PathToRegion
StrokeAndFillPath
StrokePath
WidenPath

IWin32PenFactory

CreatePen
CreatePenIndirect
ExtCreatePen

IWin32Print : IWin32DeviceContext

AbortDoc
EndDoc
EndPage
Escape
ExtEscape
SetAbortProc
StartDocA
StartDocW
StartPage

IWin32Rect

CopyRect
EqualRect
InflateRect
IntersectRect
IsRectEmpty
OffsetRect
PtInRect
SetRect
SetRectEmpty
SubtractRect
UnionRect

IWin32Region : IWin32GDIObject

CombineRgn
EqualRgn
GetRegionData
GetRgnBox
OffsetRgn
PtInRegion
RectInRegion
SetRectRgn

IWin32RegionFactory

CreateEllipticRgn
CreateEllipticRgnIndirect

CreatePolyPolygonRgn
CreatePolygonRgn
CreateRectRgn
CreateRectRgnIndirect
CreateRoundRectRgn
ExtCreateRegion

IWin32ScreenClip :

IWin32DeviceContext

ExcludeClipRect
ExcludeUpdateRgn
ExtSelectClipRgn
GetClipBox
GetClipRgn
IntersectClipRect
OffsetClipRgn
SelectClipPath
SelectClipRgn

Environment

IWin32EnvironmentUtility

FreeEnvironmentStringsA
FreeEnvironmentStringsW
GetEnvironmentStrings
GetEnvironmentStringsW
GetEnvironmentVariableW
SetEnvironmentVariableA
SetEnvironmentVariableW

File

IWin16File : IWin16Handle

_hread
_hwrite
_lclose
_llseek
_lopen
_lwrite

IWin16FileFactory

OpenFile
_lcreat
_lread

IWin32File : IWin32AsyncIOHandle

FlushFileBuffers
GetFileInformationByHandle
GetFileSize
GetFileTime
GetFileType
LockFile
LockFileEx
ReadFile
ReadFileEx
SetEndOfFile
SetFilePointer
SetFileTime
UnlockFile
WriteFile

WriteFileEx
IWin32FileFactory
 CreateFileA
 CreateFileW
 OpenFileMappingA
IWin32FileMapping:
IWin32ASyncIOHandle
 MapViewOfFile
 UnmapViewOfFile
IWin32FileMappingFactory
 CreateFileMappingA
IWin32FileSystem
 CopyFileA
 CopyFileEx
 CopyFileW
 CreateDirectoryA
 CreateDirectoryExA
 CreateDirectoryExW
 CreateDirectoryW
 DeleteFileA
 DeleteFileW
 GetDiskFreeSpaceA
 GetDiskFreeSpaceEx
 GetDriveTypeA
 GetDriveTypeW
 GetFileAttributesA
 GetFileAttributesW
 GetFileVersionInfoA
 GetFileVersionInfoSizeA
 GetLogicalDriveStringsA
 GetLogicalDrives
 GetVolumeInformationA
 GetVolumeInformationW
 MoveFileA
 MoveFileEx
 MoveFileW
 RemoveDirectoryA
 RemoveDirectoryW
 SetFileAttributesA
 SetFileAttributesW
 UnlockFileEx
 VerQueryValueA
IWin32FileUtility
 AreFileApisANSI
 CompareFileTime
 DosDateTimeToFileTime
 FileTimeToDosDateTime
 FileTimeToLocalFileTime
 FileTimeToSystemTime
 GetFullPathNameA
 GetFullPathNameW
 GetShortPathNameA
 GetShortPathNameW
 GetTempFileNameA

GetTempFileNameW
 GetTempPathA
 GetTempPathW
 LocalFileTimeToFileTime
 SearchPathA
 SystemTimeToFileTime
IWin32FindFile : IWin32ASyncIOHandle
 FindClose
 FindCloseChangeNotification
 FindFirstFileEx
 FindNextChangeNotification
 FindNextFileA
 FindNextFileW
IWin32FindFileFactory
 FindFirstChangeNotificationA
 FindFirstChangeNotificationW
 FindFirstFileA
 FindFirstFileW

Interprocess Communication

IWin32DDE
 DdeAccessData
 DdeDisconnect
 DdeFreeDataHandle
 DdeFreeStringHandle
 DdeUnaccessData
IWin32DDEFactory
 DdeClientTransaction
 DdeConnect
 DdeCreateStringHandleA
IWin32DDEUtility
 DdeGetLastError
 DdeInitializeA
 ReuseDDEIParam
 UnpackDDEIParam
IWin32Pipe : IWin32ASyncIOHandle
 PeekNamedPipe
IWin32PipeFactory
 CreatePipe

Keyboard

IWin32Keyboard
 GetAsyncKeyState
 GetKeyState
 GetKeyboardState
 MapVirtualKeyA
 SetKeyboardState
 VkKeyScanA
 keybd_event
IWin32KeyboardLayout
 ActivateKeyboardLayout
IWin32KeyboardLayoutFactory
 GetKeyboardLayout

Memory

IWin16GlobalMemory : IWin16Memory

GlobalFlags
GlobalFree
GlobalLock
GlobalReAlloc
GlobalSize
GlobalUnlock

IWin16GlobalMemoryFactory

GlobalAlloc
GlobalHandle

IWin32Heap : IWin32Memory

HeapAlloc
HeapCompact
HeapDestroy
HeapFree
HeapReAlloc
HeapSize
HeapValidate
HeapWalk

IWin32HeapFactory

GetProcessHeap
HeapCreate

IWin16LocalMemory : IWin16Memory

LocalFree
LocalLock
LocalReAlloc
LocalUnlock

IWin32LocalMemoryFactory

LocalAlloc

IWin16Memory

IsBadCodePtr
IsBadReadPtr
IsBadStringPtrA
IsBadStringPtrW
IsBadWritePtr

IWin32Memory

IsBadCodePtr
IsBadReadPtr
IsBadStringPtrA
IsBadStringPtrW
IsBadWritePtr

IWin32VirtualMemory : IWin32Memory

VirtualFree
VirtualLock
VirtualProtect
VirtualQuery
VirtualUnlock

IWin32VirtualMemoryFactory

VirtualAlloc

Module

IWin32Module : IWin32Handle

DisableThreadLibraryCalls
EnumResourceNamesA

FindResourceA
FreeLibrary
GetModuleFileNameA
GetModuleFileNameW
GetProcAddress
LoadBitmapA
LoadBitmapW
LoadCursorA
LoadCursorW
LoadIconA
LoadIconW
LoadImageA
LoadMenuA
LoadMenuIndirectA
LoadStringA
SizeofResource

IWin32ModuleFactory

GetModuleHandleA
GetModuleHandleW
LoadLibraryA
LoadLibraryExA
LoadLibraryW

Multiple Window Position

IWin32MWP

BeginDeferWindowPos
DeferWindowPos
EndDeferWindowPos

Ole

IWin32Ole

CoDisconnectObject
CoLockObjectExternal
CoRegisterClassObject
CoRevokeClassObject

IWin32OleFactory

BindMoniker
CoCreateInstance
CoGetClassObject
CoGetInstanceFromFile
CreateDataAdviseHolder
CreateDataCache
CreateLockBytesOnHGlobal
CreateOleAdviseHolder
CreateStreamOnHGlobal
OleCreate
OleCreateDefaultHandler
OleCreateFromData
OleCreateFromFile
OleCreateLink
OleCreateLinkFromData
OleCreateLinkToFile
OleGetClipboard

OleLoad

IWin32OleMarshalUtility

- CoMarshalInterface
- CoReleaseMarshalData
- CoUnmarshalInterface

IWin32OleMoniker

- CreateGenericComposite
- CreateItemMoniker
- CreatePointerMoniker
- CreateURLMoniker
- MkParseDisplayName
- MonikerCommonPrefixWith
- MonikerRelativePathTo

IWin32OleMonikerFactory

- CreateBindCtx
- CreateFileMoniker
- GetRunningObjectTable

IWin32OleStg

- OleConvertIStorageToOLESTREAM
- OleSave
- ReadClassStg
- ReleaseStgMedium
- WriteClassStg
- WriteFmtUserTypeStg

IWin32OleStgFactory

- StgCreateDocfile
- StgCreateDocfileOnILockBytes
- StgIsStorageFile
- StgOpenStorage

IWin32OleStream

- GetHGlobalFromStream
- OleConvertOLESTREAMToIStorage
- OleLoadFromStream
- OleSaveToStream
- ReadClassStm
- WriteClassStm

IWin32OleUtility

- CLSIDFromProgID
- CLSIDFromString
- CoCreateGuid
- CoFileTimeNow
- CoFreeUnusedLibraries
- CoGetMalloc
- CoInitialize
- CoRegisterMessageFilter
- CoTaskMemAlloc
- CoTaskMemFree
- CoTaskMemRealloc
- CoUninitialize
- GetClassFile
- GetHGlobalFromILockBytes
- IIDFromString
- OleGetIconOfClass

- OleInitialize
- OleIsRunning
- OleRegEnumVerbs
- OleRegGetMiscStatus
- OleRegGetUserType
- OleSetClipboard
- OleUninitialize
- ProgIDFromCLSID
- PropVariantClear
- RegisterDragDrop
- RevokeDragDrop
- StringFromCLSID
- StringFromGUID2
- StringFromIID

OpenGL

IWin32GL

- glBegin
- glClear
- glClearColor
- glClearDepth
- glColor3d
- glEnable
- glEnd
- glFinish
- glMatrixMode
- glNormal3d
- glPolygonMode
- glPopMatrix
- glPushMatrix
- glRotated
- glScaled
- glTranslated
- glVertex3d
- glViewport
- wglCreateContext
- wglGetCurrentDC
- wglMakeCurrent

IWin32GLU

- gluCylinder
- gluDeleteQuadric
- gluNewQuadric
- gluPerspective
- gluQuadricDrawStyle
- gluQuadricNormals

Printer

IWin32Printer

- ClosePrinter
- DocumentPropertiesA
- GetPrinterA

IWin32PrinterFactory

- OpenPrinterA
- OpenPrinterW

IWin32PrinterUtility
DeviceCapabilitiesA
EnumPrintersA

Process

IWin16ProcessFactory
WinExec

IWin32Process : IWin32SyncHandle ←
IWin32ProcessContext

DebugBreak
ExitProcess
FatalAppExitA
FatalExit
GetExitCodeProcess
GetCurrentProcessId
GetProcessVersion
GetProcessWorkingSetSize
OpenProcessToken
SetProcessWorkingSetSize
TerminateProcess
UnhandledExceptionFilter

IWin32ProcessContext

GetCommandLineA
GetCommandLineW
GetCurrentDirectoryA
GetCurrentDirectoryW
GetStartupInfoA
SetConsoleCtrlHandler
SetCurrentDirectoryA
SetCurrentDirectoryW
SetHandleCount
SetUnhandledExceptionFilter

IWin32ProcessFactory

CreateProcessA
CreateProcessW
OpenProcess

Registry

IWin16Profile

GetPrivateProfileIntA
GetPrivateProfileStringA
GetPrivateProfileStringW
GetProfileIntA
GetProfileIntW
GetProfileStringA
GetProfileStringW
WritePrivateProfileStringA
WritePrivateProfileStringW
WriteProfileStringA
WriteProfileStringW

IWin16Registry

RegCreateKeyExA
RegCreateKeyW
RegEnumKeyA

RegEnumKeyW
RegOpenKeyA
RegOpenKeyW
RegQueryValueA
RegQueryValueW
RegSetValueA
RegSetValueW

IWin32Registry

RegCloseKey
RegCreateKeyA
RegCreateKeyExW
RegDeleteKeyA
RegDeleteKeyW
RegDeleteValueA
RegDeleteValueW
RegEnumKeyExA
RegEnumKeyExW
RegEnumValueA
RegEnumValueW
RegFlushKey
RegNotifyChangeKeyValue
RegOpenKeyExA
RegOpenKeyExW
RegQueryInfoKeyA
RegQueryInfoKeyW
RegQueryValueExA
RegQueryValueExW
RegSetValueExA
RegSetValueExW

Resource

IWin32Resource

LoadResource
LockResource

Security

IWin32SecurityACL

AddAccessAllowedAce
AddAccessDeniedAce
AddAce
DeleteAce
GetAce
GetAclInformation

IWin32SecurityACLUtility

InitializeAcl
IsValidAcl

IWin32SecurityAccess

CopySid
EqualSid
GetLengthSid
IsValidSid
LookupAccountNameA
LookupAccountSid
LookupPrivilegeValueA

IWin32SecurityDescriptor

GetSecurityDescriptorDacl
 GetSecurityDescriptorGroup
 GetSecurityDescriptorOwner
 GetSecurityDescriptorSacl
 IsValidSecurityDescriptor
 SetSecurityDescriptorDacl
 SetSecurityDescriptorGroup
 SetSecurityDescriptorOwner
 SetSecurityDescriptorSacl

IWin32SecurityDescriptorFactory

InitializeSecurityDescriptor

IWin32SecurityToken : IWin32Handle

AdjustTokenPrivileges
 GetTokenInformation

IWin32SecurityToken : IWin32Handle

OpenProcessToken
 OpenThreadToken

Shell

IWin32Drop

DragFinish
 DragQueryFileW
 DragQueryPoint

IWin32Shell

SHGetDesktopFolder
 SHGetFileInfoA
 ShellExecuteA

Synchronization

IWin32AtomicUtility

InterlockedDecrement
 InterlockedExchange
 InterlockedIncrement

IWin32CriticalSection

DeleteCriticalSection
 EnterCriticalSection
 LeaveCriticalSection

IWin32CriticalSectionFactory

InitializeCriticalSection

IWin32Event : IWin32SyncHandle

PulseEvent
 ResetEvent
 SetEvent

IWin32EventFactory

CreateEventA

IWin32Mutex : IWin32SyncHandle

ReleaseMutex

IWin32MutexFactory

CreateMutexA
 OpenMutexA

IWin32Semaphore : IWin32SyncHandle

ReleaseSemaphore

IWin32SemaphoreFactory

CreateSemaphoreA

IWin32SyncHandle : IWin32Handle

MsgWaitForMultipleObjects
 SignalObjectAndWait
 WaitForMultipleObjects
 WaitForSingleObject
 WaitForSingleObjectEx

IWin32WaitableTimer :

IWin32SyncHandle

CancelWaitableTimer
 SetWaitableTimer

IWin32WaitableTimerFactory

CreateWaitableTimer
 OpenWaitableTimer

System

IWin32WindowsHook

CallNextHookEx
 UnhookWindowsHookEx

IWin32WindowsHookFactory

SetWindowsHookExA
 SetWindowsHookExW

IWin32WindowsHookUtility

CallMsgFilterA
 CallMsgFilterW

Thread

IWin32Thread : IWin32SyncHandle ←

IWin32ThreadContext, IWin32ThreadMessage

DispatchMessageA
 DispatchMessageW
 ExitThread
 GetCurrentThreadId
 GetExitCodeThread
 GetThreadLocale
 GetThreadPriority
 OpenThreadToken
 ResumeThread
 SetThreadPriority
 SetThreadToken
 Sleep
 SuspendThread
 TerminateThread
 TlsAlloc
 TlsFree
 TlsGetValue
 TlsSetValue

IWin32ThreadContext

EnumThreadWindows
 GetActiveWindow

IWin32ThreadFactory

CreateThread

IWin32ThreadMessage

GetMessageA

GetMessagePos
GetMessageTime
GetMessageW
GetQueueStatus
PostQuitMessage
PostThreadMessageA
TranslateMessage
WaitMessage

IWin32ThreadUtility

Timer

IWin32Timer
KillTimer
SetTimer

Utilities

IWin32Beep
Beep

MessageBeep

IWin32StringUtility

CharLowerA
CharLowerBuffA
CharLowerW
CharNextA
CharNextW
CharPrevA
CharToOemA
CharUpperA
CharUpperBuffA
CharUpperBuffW
CharUpperW
CompareStringA
CompareStringW
FormatMessageA
FormatMessageW
GetStringTypeA
GetStringTypeExA
GetStringTypeW
IsCharAlphaA
IsCharAlphaNumericA
IsCharAlphaNumericW
IsCharAlphaW
IsDBCSLeadByte
IsDBCSLeadByteEx
LCMapStringA
LCMapStringW
MultiByteToWideChar
OutputDebugStringA
OutputDebugStringW
ToAscii
WideCharToMultiByte
lstrcatA
lstrcmpA

lstrcmpiA
lstrcpyA
lstrcpyW
lstrcpynA
lstrlenA
lstrlenW
wsprintfA
wsprintfW
wvsprintfA

IWin32SystemUtility

CountClipboardFormats
EmptyClipboard
EnumClipboardFormats
EnumSystemLocalesA
GetACP
GetCPInfo
GetComputerNameW
GetCurrentProcess
GetCurrentProcessId
GetCurrentThread
GetCurrentThreadId
GetDateFormatA
GetDateFormatW
GetDialogBaseUnits
GetDoubleClickTime
GetLastError
GetLocalTime
GetLocaleInfoA
GetLocaleInfoW
GetOEMCP
GetSysColor
GetSysColorBrush
GetSystemDefaultLCID
GetSystemDefaultLangID
GetSystemDirectoryA
GetSystemInfo
GetSystemMetrics
GetSystemTime
GetTickCount
GetTimeFormatA
GetTimeFormatW
GetTimeZoneInformation
GetUserDefaultLCID
GetUserDefaultLangID
GetUserNameA
GetUserNameW
GetVersion
GetVersionExA
GetWindowsDirectoryA
GetWindowsDirectoryW
GlobalMemoryStatus
IsValidCodePage
IsValidLocale

OemToCharA
 QueryPerformanceCounter
 QueryPerformanceFrequency
 RaiseException
 RegisterWindowMessageA
 SetErrorMode
 SetLastError
 SetLocalTime
 SystemParametersInfoA

IWin32Utility

MulDiv

Window

IWin32Accel

CopyAcceleratorTableA
 TranslateAcceleratorA

IWin32AccelFactory

LoadAcceleratorsA

IWin32Dialog : IWin32Window ←

IWin32DialogState

ChooseColorA
 DialogBoxParamA
 DialogBoxParamW
 EndDialog
 MapDialogRect
 SendDlgItemMessageA

IWin32DialogFactory

CreateDialogIndirectParamA
 CreateDialogParamA
 DialogBoxIndirectParamA

IWin32DialogState

CheckDlgButton
 GetDlgCtrlID
 GetDlgItem
 GetDlgItemInt
 GetDlgItemTextA
 GetNextDlgGroupItem
 GetNextDlgTabItem
 IsDlgButtonChecked
 SetDlgItemInt
 SetDlgItemTextA

IWin32Menu ← IWin32MenuState

DeleteMenu
 DestroyMenu
 InsertMenuA
 InsertMenuW
 IsMenu
 ModifyMenuA
 RemoveMenu
 TrackPopupMenu

IWin32MenuFactory

CreatePopupMenu

IWin32MenuState

AppendMenuA

AppendMenuW
 ArrangeIconicWindows
 BringWindowToTop
 CheckMenuItem
 CheckMenuRadioItem
 CheckRadioButton
 EnableMenuItem
 GetMenuItemCount
 GetMenuItemID
 GetMenuItemRect
 GetMenuState
 GetMenuStringA
 GetSubMenu
 HiliteMenuItem
 SetMenuDefaultItem
 SetMenuItemBitmaps

IWin32Window←

IWin32WindowProperties, IWin32WindowState

BeginPaint
 CallWindowProcA
 CallWindowProcW
 ChildWindowFromPoint
 ChildWindowFromPointEx
 ClientToScreen
 CloseWindow
 CreateCaret
 DefFrameProcA
 DefMDIChildProcA
 DefWindowProcA
 DefWindowProcW
 DestroyWindow
 DlgDirListA
 DlgDirListComboBoxA
 DlgDirSelectComboBoxExA
 DlgDirSelectExA
 DrawAnimatedRects
 DrawMenuBar
 EndPaint
 EnumChildWindows
 EnumWindows
 FindWindow
 FlashWindow
 MapWindowPoints
 MessageBoxA
 MessageBoxW
 MoveWindow
 OpenClipboard
 OpenIcon
 PeekMessageA
 PeekMessageW
 PostMessageA
 PostMessageW
 RedrawWindow

	ScreenToClient	IsChild
1	ScrollWindow	IsIconic
	ScrollWindowEx	IsWindow
2	SendMessageA	IsWindowUnicode
	SendMessageW	IsWindowVisible
3	SendNotifyMessageA	IsZoomed
	TranslateMDISysAccel	LockWindowUpdate
4	UpdateWindow	SetActiveWindow
	IWin32WindowFactory	SetClipboardViewer
	CreateWindowExA	SetFocus
5	CreateWindowExW	SetForegroundWindow
	IWin32WindowProperties	SetMenu
6	DragAcceptFiles	SetParent
	GetClassLongA	SetScrollInfo
7	GetClassNameA	SetScrollPos
	GetClassNameW	SetScrollRange
8	GetPropA	SetWindowLongA
	GetPropW	SetWindowLongW
9	RemovePropA	SetWindowPlacement
	RemovePropW	SetWindowPos
10	SetClassLongA	SetWindowRgn
	SetPropA	SetWindowTextA
11	SetPropW	SetWindowTextW
	IWin32WindowState	ShowCaret
12	EnableScrollBar	ShowOwnedPopups
	EnableWindow	ShowScrollBar
13	GetClientRect	ShowWindow
	GetDC	ValidateRect
14	GetDCEX	ValidateRgn
	GetLastActivePopup	IWin32WindowUtility
15	GetMenu	AdjustWindowRect
	GetParent	AdjustWindowRectEx
16	GetScrollInfo	EnumWindows
	GetScrollPos	FindWindowA
17	GetScrollRange	GetActiveWindow
	GetSystemMenu	GetCapture
18	GetTopWindow	GetCaretPos
	GetUpdateRect	GetClassInfoA
19	GetUpdateRgn	GetClassInfoExA
	GetWindow	GetClassInfoW
20	GetWindowDC	GetDesktopWindow
	GetWindowLongA	GetFocus
21	GetWindowLongW	GetForegroundWindow
	GetWindowPlacement	InSendMessage
22	GetWindowRect	IsDialogMessageA
	GetWindowRgn	RegisterClassA
23	GetWindowTextA	RegisterClassExA
	GetWindowTextLengthA	RegisterClass
24	GetWindowTextW	
	GetWindowThreadProcessId	
25	HideCaret	
	InvalidateRect	
	InvalidateRgn	
	IsWindowEnabled	

1 Although the invention has been described in language specific to structural
2 features and/or methodological steps, it is to be understood that the invention
3 defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or
4 steps described. Rather, the specific features and steps are disclosed as preferred
5 forms of implementing the claimed invention.

CLAIMS

1. A method of factoring operating system functions comprising:
defining criteria that governs how functions of an operating system are to
be factored into one or more groups;
factoring the functions into one or more groups based upon the criteria; and
associating groups of functions with programming objects that have data
and methods, wherein the methods correspond to the operating system functions.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming objects have
interfaces through which the methods can be accessed.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming objects comprise
COM objects.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said factoring comprises creating a
hierarchy of object interfaces in which certain interfaces can inherit from other
interfaces.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said factoring comprises creating a
hierarchy of object interfaces in which certain interfaces can aggregate with other
interfaces.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising instantiating a plurality of
programming objects across a process boundary.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising instantiating a plurality of
2 programming objects across a machine boundary.

3
4 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria is based, at least in part,
5 on the manner in which particular functions behave.

6
7 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the manner includes a consideration
8 of the types of operating system resources that are associated with the operation of
9 a function.

10
11 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the manner includes a consideration
12 of whether a particular function creates an operating system resource.

13
14 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the manner includes a consideration
15 of whether a particular function operates upon an operating system resource.

16
17 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria is based, at least in part,
18 on the manner in which particular functions behave, wherein the manner includes:

19 a consideration of the types of operating system resources that are
20 associated with the operation of a function; and

21 a consideration of whether a particular function creates an operating system
22 resource.

1 **13.** The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria is based, at least in part,
2 on the manner in which particular functions behave, wherein the manner includes:

3 a consideration of the types of operating system resources that are
4 associated with the operation of a function call; and

5 a consideration of whether a particular function operates upon a given
6 operating system resource.

7
8 **14.** A method of factoring operating system functions comprising:
9 factoring a plurality of operating system functions that are used in
10 connection with operating system resources into first groups based upon first
11 criteria;

12 factoring the first groups into individual sub-groups based upon second
13 criteria; and

14 assigning each sub-group to its own programming object interface, wherein
15 a programming object interface represents a particular object's implementation of
16 its collective methods.

17
18 **15.** The method of claim 14, wherein the first criteria is based upon the
19 type of resource that is associated with an operation of a function.

20
21 **16.** The method of claim 14, wherein the second criteria is based upon
22 the nature of an operation of a function on a particular resource.

1 **17.** The method of claim 16, wherein said nature concerns whether a
2 function creates a resource.

3
4 **18.** The method of claim 16, wherein said nature concerns whether a
5 function does not create a resource.

6
7 **19.** The method of claim 14, wherein the first criteria is based upon the
8 type of resource that is associated with an operation of a function, and the second
9 criteria is based upon the nature of an operation of a function on a particular
10 resource.

11
12 **20.** The method of claim 14, wherein at least one interface inherits from
13 another interface.

14
15 **21.** The method of claim 14, wherein at least one interface aggregates
16 with another interface.

17
18 **22.** The method of claim 14 further comprising instantiating a plurality
19 of programming objects across a process boundary.

20
21 **23.** The method of claim 14 further comprising instantiating a plurality
22 of programming objects across a process boundary and a machine boundary.

1 **24.** A method of factoring operating system functions comprising:
2 factoring a plurality of operating system functions into interface groups
3 based upon the resources with which a function is associated;
4 factoring the interface groups into interface sub-groups based upon each
5 function's use a handle that represents a resource; and
6 organizing the interface sub-groups so that at least one of the interface sub-
7 groups inherits from at least one other of the interface sub-groups.

8
9 **25.** The method of claim 24, wherein said organizing comprises
10 aggregating at least one of the interface sub-groups.

11
12 **26.** The method of claim 24, wherein the interface sub-groups are
13 associated with COM objects.

14
15 **27.** The method of claim 24, wherein the factoring of the interface
16 groups into interface sub-groups comprises considering whether a function creates
17 a handle.
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1 **28.** The method of claim 24, wherein said organizing comprises
2 aggregating at least one of the interface sub-groups, and wherein the factoring of
3 the interface groups into interface sub-groups comprises considering whether a
4 function call creates a handle.

5
6 **29.** An operating system application program interface embodied on a
7 computer-readable medium comprising a plurality of object interfaces, wherein
8 each object interface includes one or more methods that are associated with and
9 can call functions of an operating system that does not comprise the object
10 interfaces.

11
12 **30.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
13 wherein the object interfaces are arranged in groups in accordance with the types
14 of objects with which their operation is associated.

15
16 **31.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
17 wherein the methods within some of the interfaces are arranged in accordance with
18 whether they create an object.

19
20 **32.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
21 wherein the methods within some of the interfaces are arranged in accordance with
22 whether they do not create an object.
23
24
25

1 **33.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
2 wherein the methods within some of the interfaces are arranged in accordance with
3 whether they operate upon an object.
4

5 **34.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
6 wherein at least some of the object interfaces are arranged so that they inherit from
7 other of the object interfaces.
8

9 **35.** The operating system application program interface of claim 29,
10 wherein at least some of the object interfaces are arranged so that they aggregate
11 with other of the object interfaces.
12

13 **36.** An operating system comprising:
14 a plurality of programming objects having interfaces, wherein the
15 programming objects represent operating system resources, and wherein the
16 interfaces define methods that are organized in accordance with whether they
17 create an operating system resource or not;

18 wherein the programming objects are configured to be called either directly
19 or indirectly by an application; and

20 wherein the methods are configured to call operating system functions
21 responsive to being called directly or indirectly by an application.
22

23 **37.** The operating system of claim 36, wherein some of the objects are
24 disposed across at least one process boundary.
25

1 **38.** The operating system claim 36, wherein some of the objects are
2 disposed across at least one machine boundary.

3
4 **39.** The operating system application program interface of claim 36,
5 wherein at least some of the objects are disposed across at least one process
6 boundary and at least one machine boundary.

7
8 **40.** The operating system application program interface of claim 36,
9 wherein the objects comprise COM objects.

10
11 **41.** A method of converting an operating system from a non-object-
12 oriented format to an object oriented format, wherein the operating system
13 includes a plurality of operating system functions that are callable to create or use
14 operating system resources, the method comprising:

15 defining a plurality of programming object interfaces that define methods
16 that correspond to the operating system functions, wherein programming objects
17 that support the interfaces are callable either directly or indirectly by an
18 application;

19 calling a programming object interface; and

20 responsive to said calling, calling an operating system function with a
21 method of the programming object that supports said programming object
22 interface.

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Methods of factoring operating system functions into one or more groups of
3 functions are described. Factorization permits operating systems that are not
4 configured to support computing in an object-oriented environment to be used in
5 an object oriented environment. This promotes distributed computing by enabling
6 operating system resources to be instantiated and used across process and machine
7 boundaries. In one embodiment, criteria are defined that govern how functions of
8 an operating system are to be factored into one or more groups. Based on the
9 defined criteria, the functions are factors into groups and groups of functions are
10 then associated with programming objects that have data and methods, wherein the
11 methods correspond to the operating system functions. Applications can call
12 methods on the programming objects either directly or indirectly that, in turn, call
13 operating system functions.
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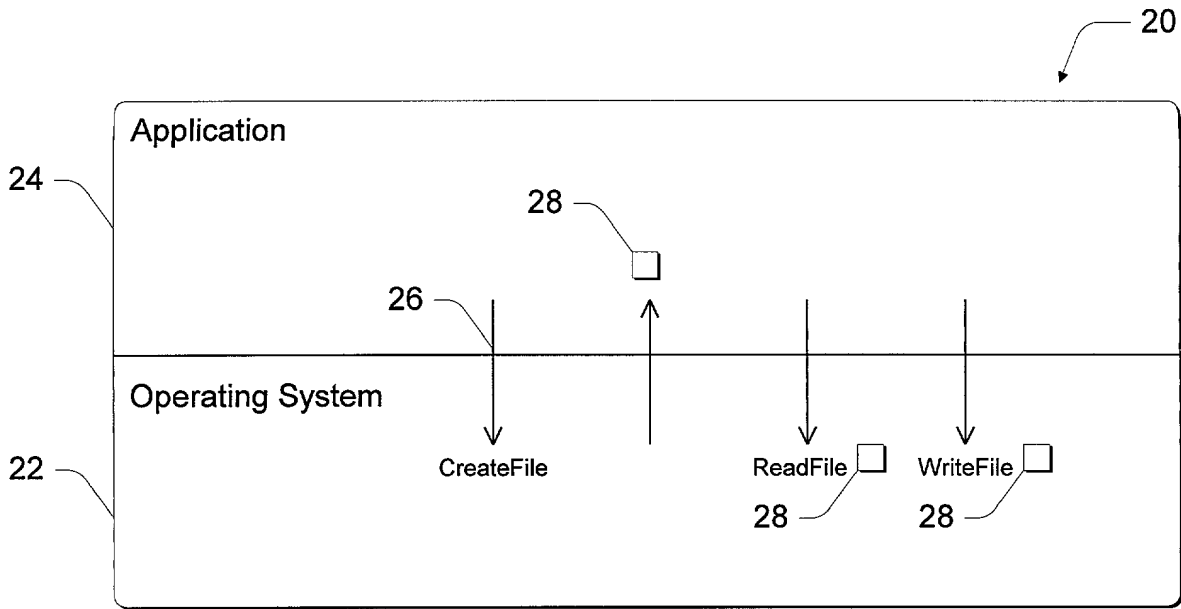


Fig. 1
Prior Art

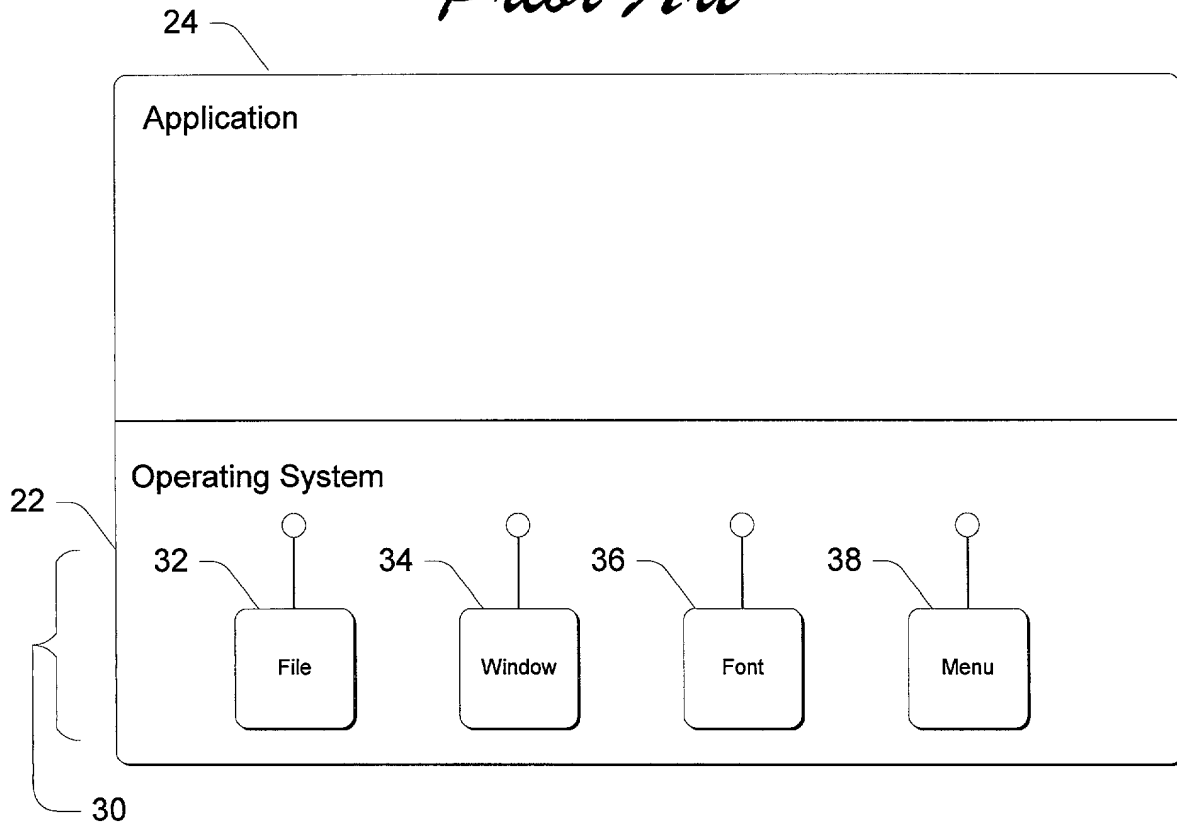
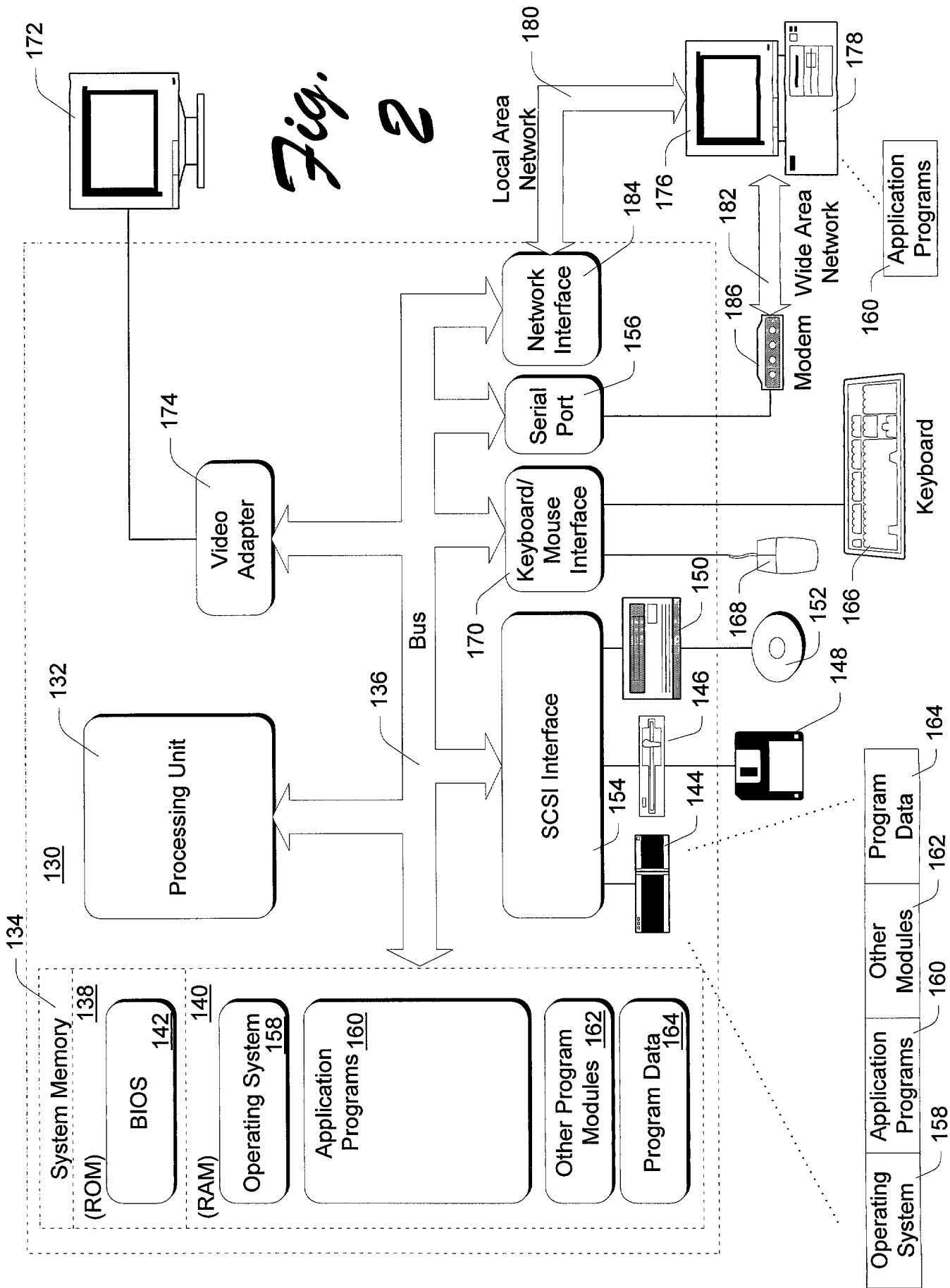


Fig. 3

Fig. 2



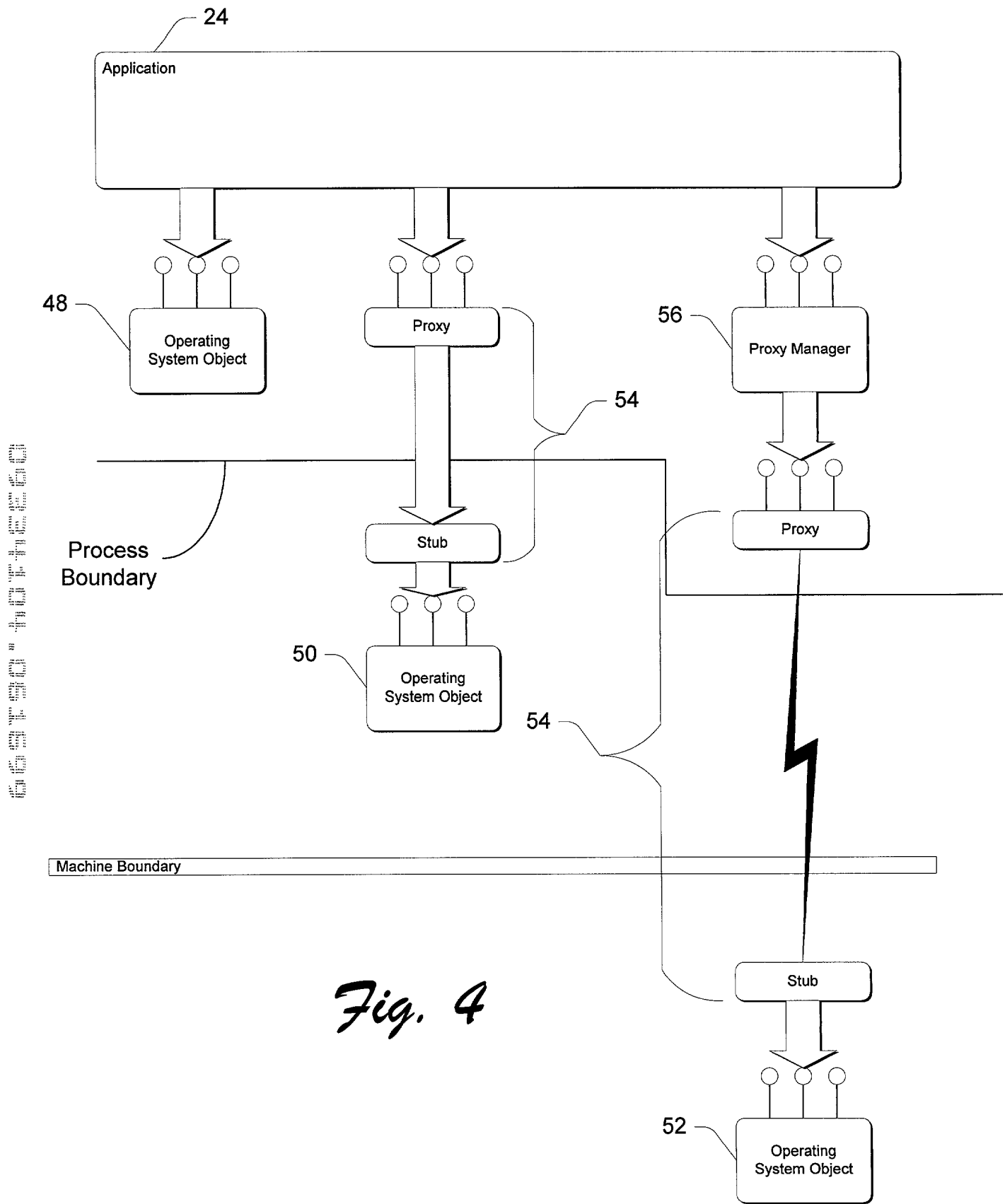


Fig. 4

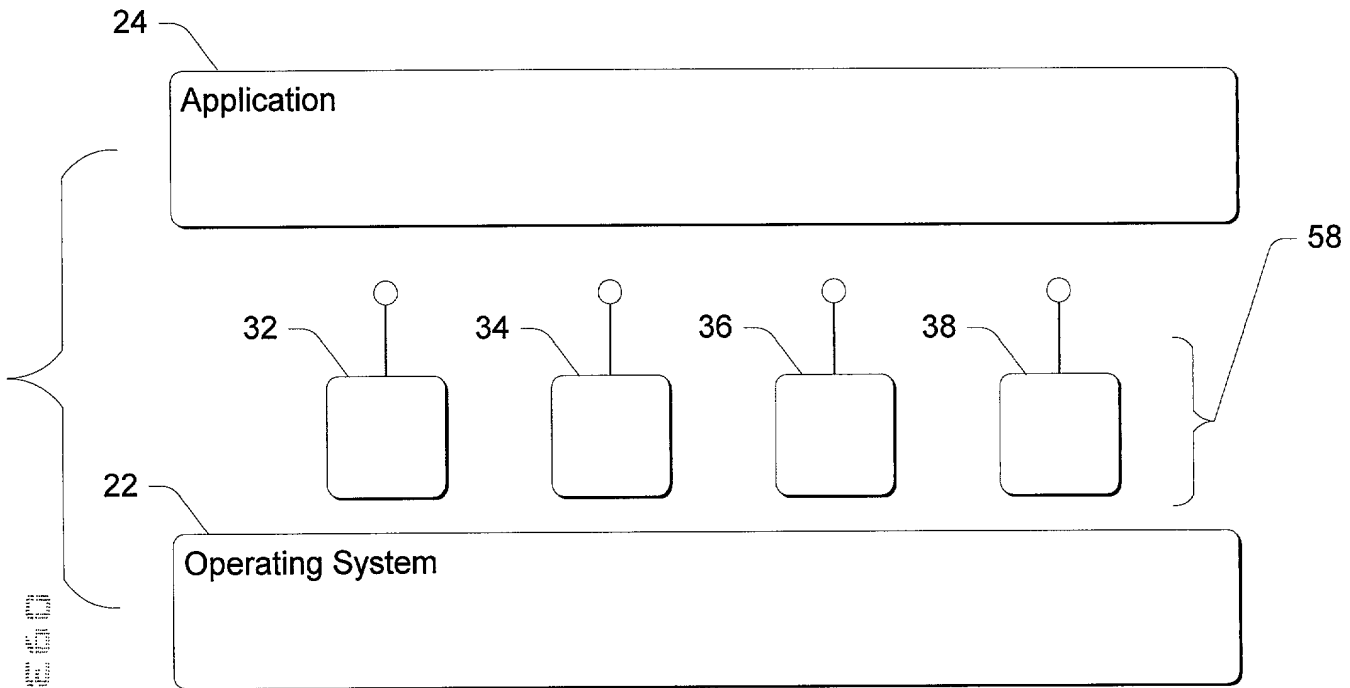


Fig. 5

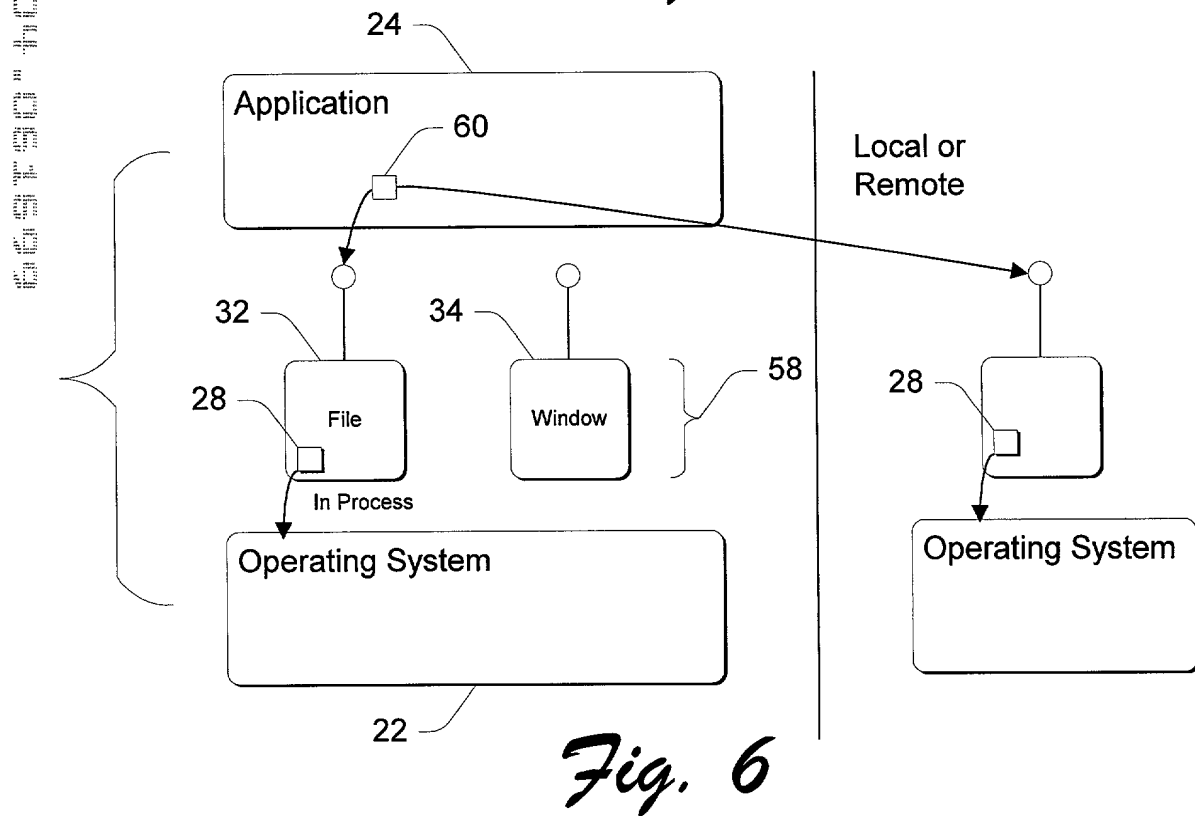
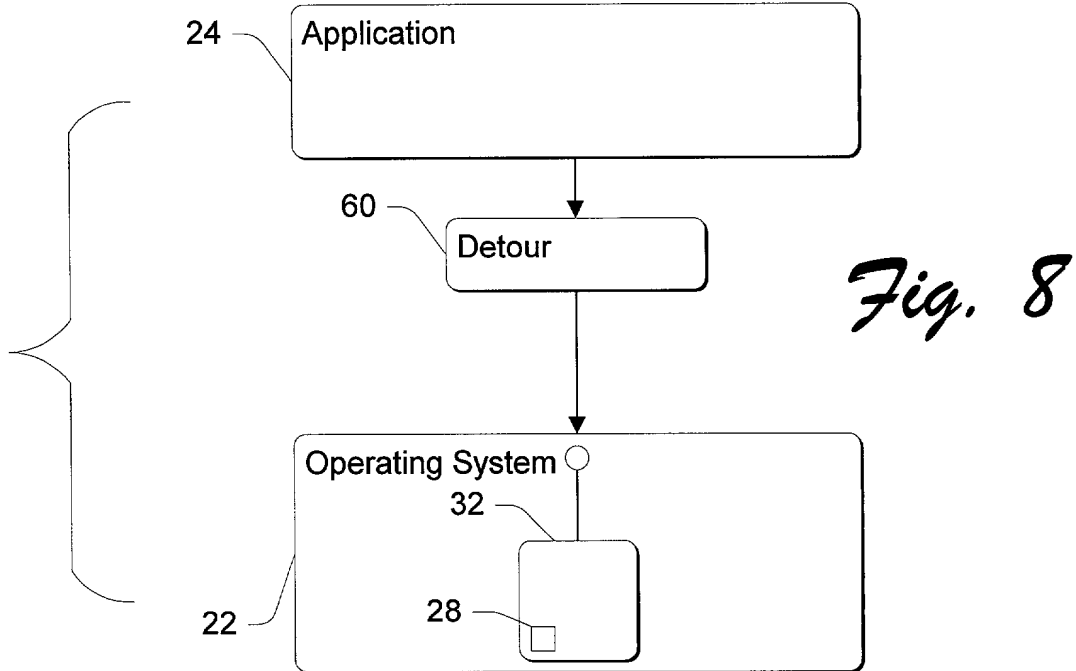
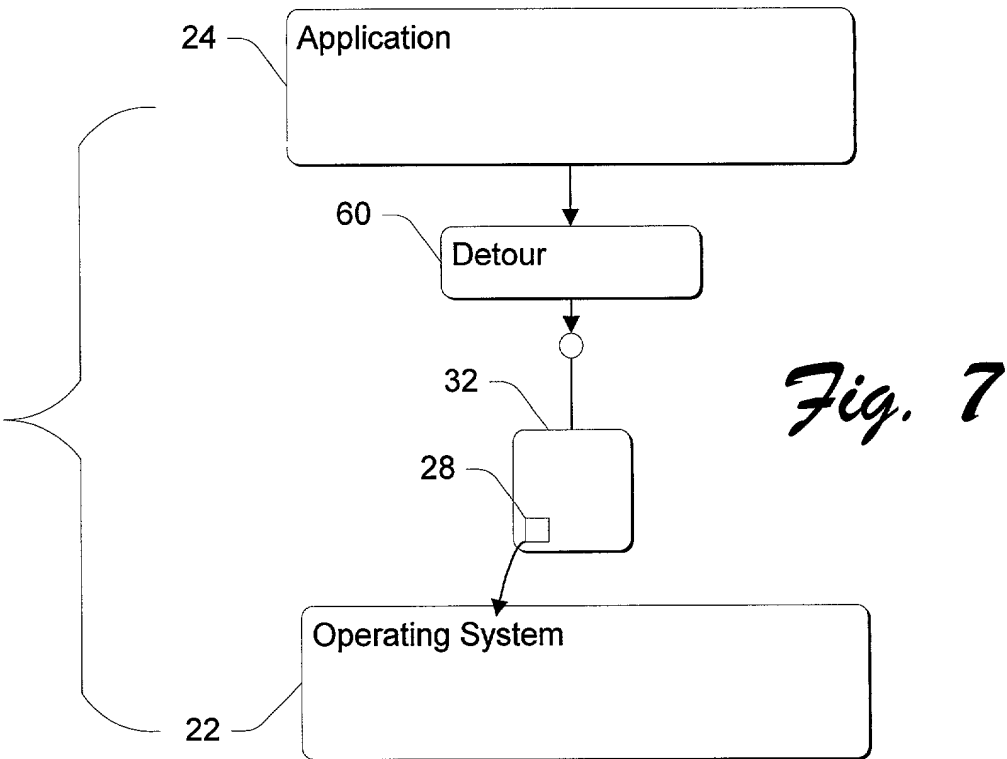


Fig. 6

MS1-354US



MS1-354US

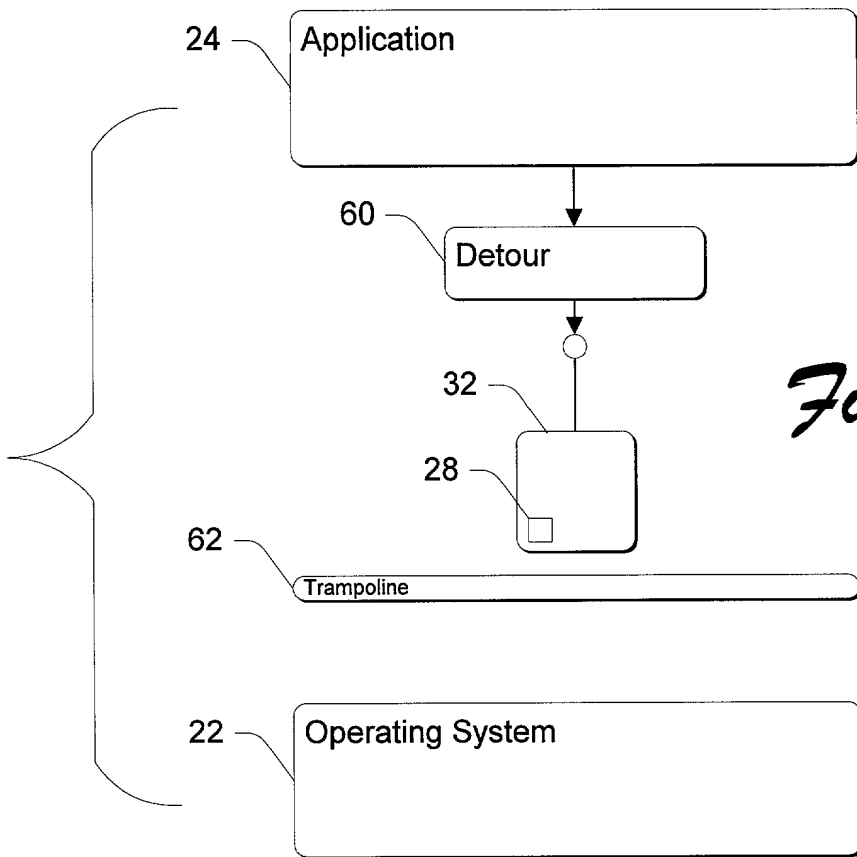


Fig. 9

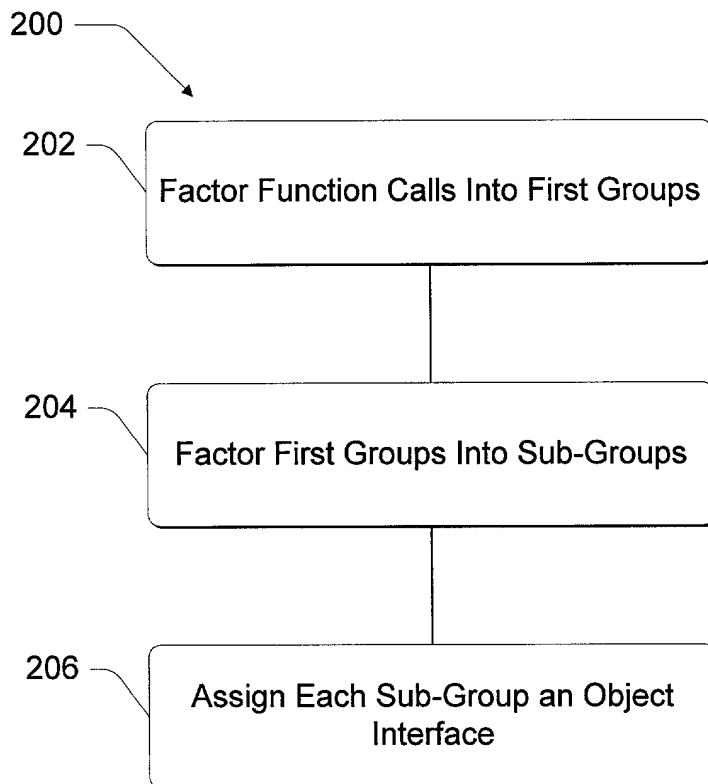


Fig. 10

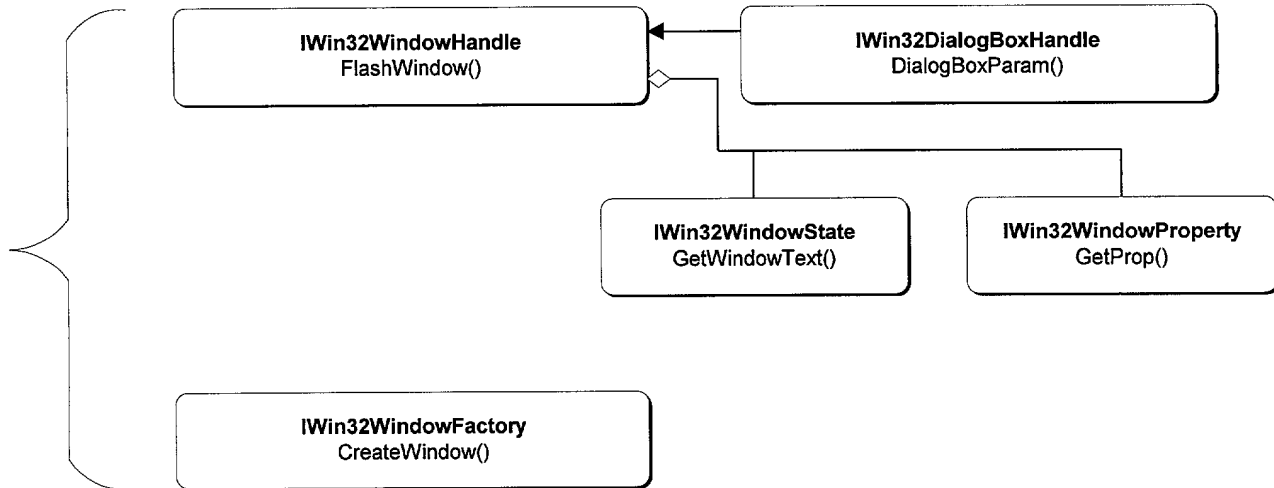


Fig. 11

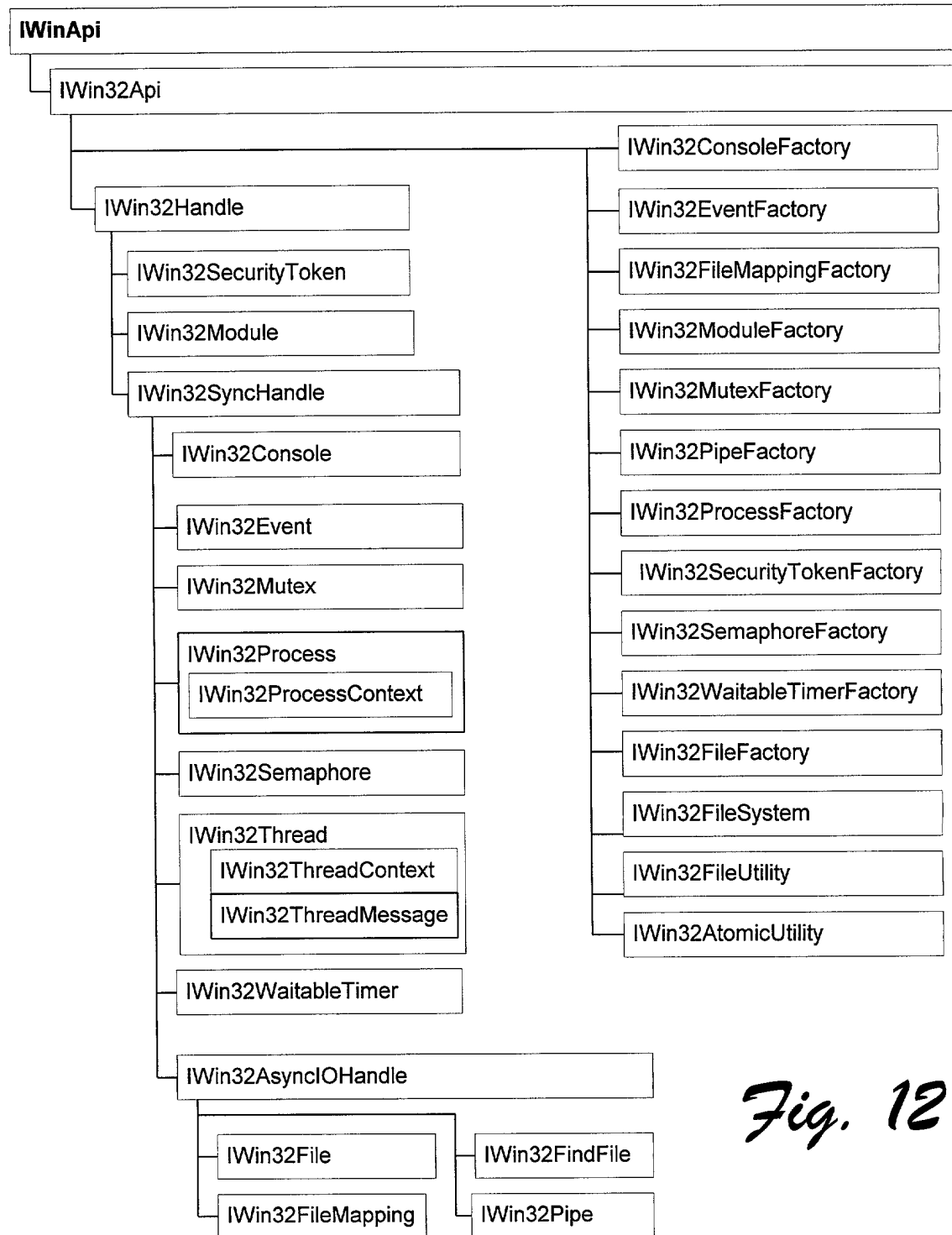


Fig. 12



Fig. 13

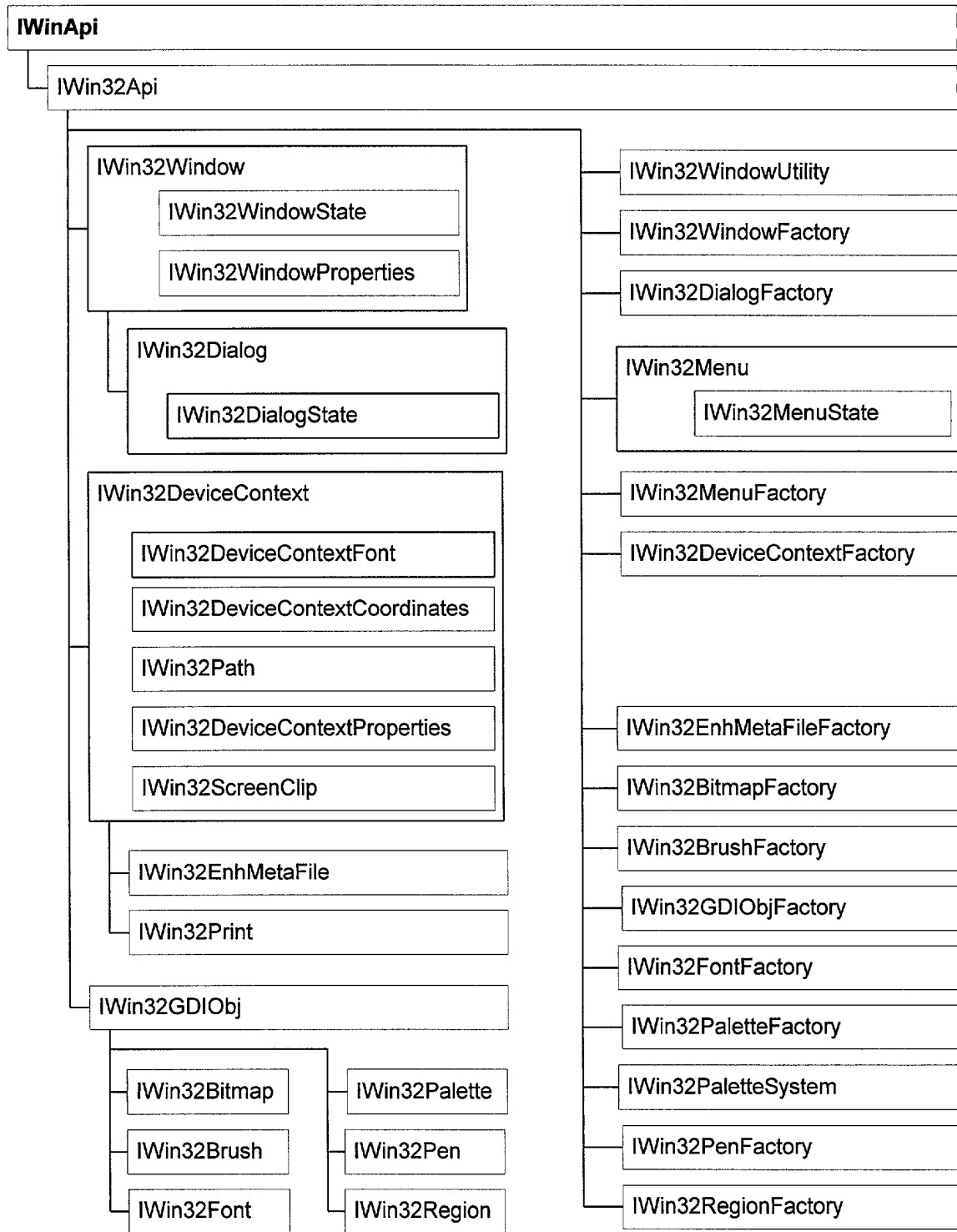


Fig. 14

MS1-354US

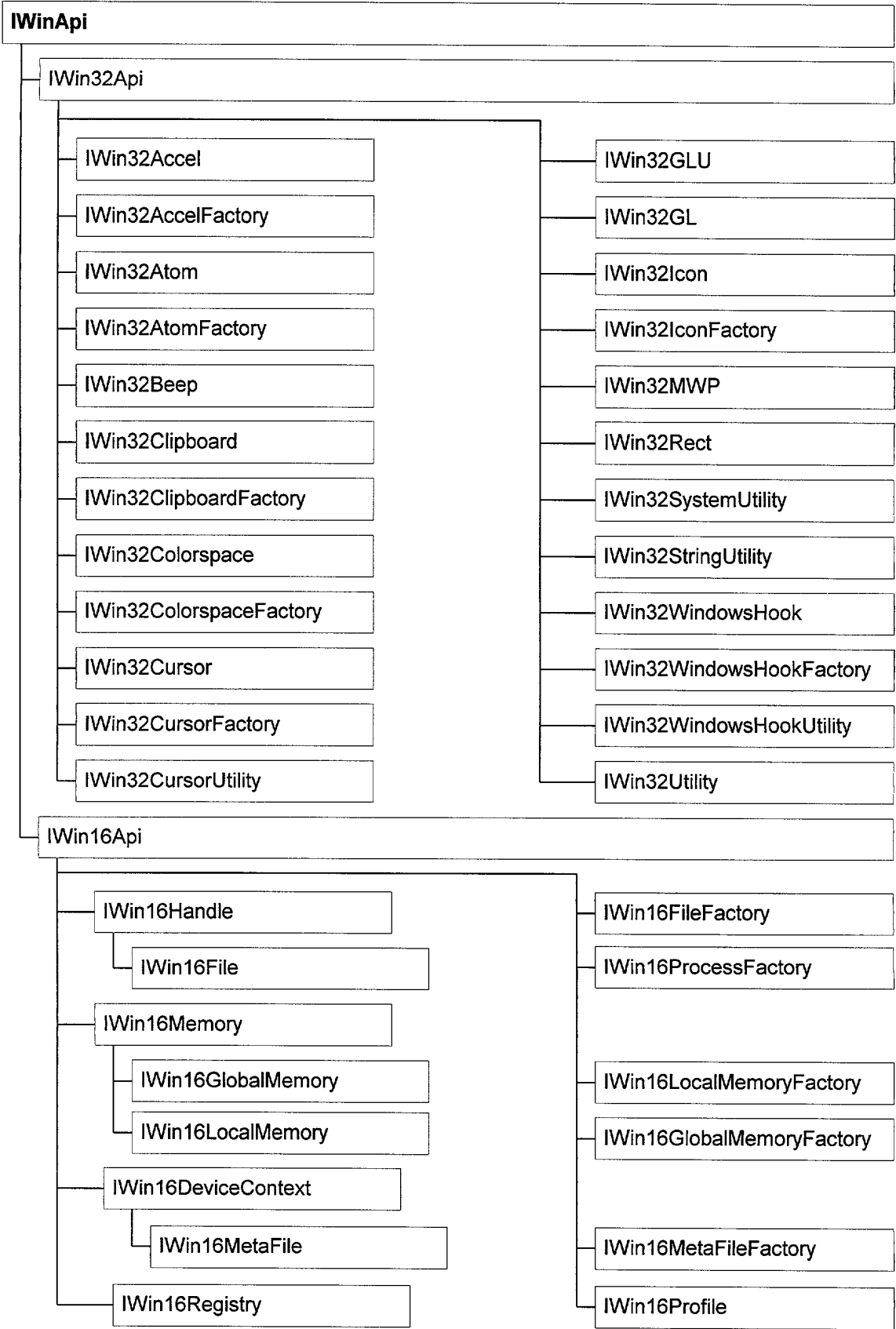


Fig. 15